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TORY BARONESS'S REPORT BASED IN PART ON SHEPWAY RESEARCH

Newlove outlines vision for active communities

By **JAMES BENJAMIN**

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SHEPWAY is at the heart of a radical new approach to community activism that could see people reclaiming their streets, tackling local issues and improving the environment, according to a report by Baroness Newlove.

The Government's Champion for Active Safer Communities has detailed what residents, businesses, agencies and government can do to begin a "generational shift in the country's approach to activism and tackling neighbourhood crime".

A key part of the report, Vision for Safe and Active Communities, includes work carried out by Baroness Newlove over the last three months in seven handpicked areas.

These included Cheriton and Folkestone East. The widow of murdered Garry Newlove – beaten to death by underage drinkers outside their home in Cheshire in 2007 – has become a crusader in supporting young people and clamping down on underage drinking.

Last year she was made a Baroness and sits in the Lords as a Conservative peer.

Shepway has also been given £15,000 to be spent on projects approved by the community to help drive up pride and confidence.

Among the recommendations made by Baroness Newlove are community reward schemes to help with crime prevention work.

Other include allowing communities to set speed limits, investing money seized from drug dealers into local projects, and providing a point of contact to report anti-social behaviour.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



OUR MULTICULTURAL MIX

For full story see inside

The robot which will save lives...

A BOMB disposal robot to be used by security forces on the front line has been created by designers at a specialist manufacturing firm.

A team from NIC Instruments Ltd in Folkestone teamed up with experts from the Department of Computer and Communications Engineering at the University of Greenwich at Medway to make the state-of-the-art robot.

The lightweight machine, which can climb stairs and open doors, will be used by soldiers on bomb disposal missions in countries such as Afghanistan.

FULL STORY – PAGE 2

...and the park to put years on them

WORK has started on the development of a multi-million pound state-of-the-art sports ground.

The facility in Cheriton Road will boast two new astro-turf pitches, netball courts and a multi-use games area.

Demolition of the worn-out pitches at the old sports ground in Cheriton, in Folkestone, started on Monday and this will be followed by the construction of the new facilities.

The regeneration of the ground is part of a three-part development, costing £6m.

FULL STORY – PAGE 3

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Robot set to defuse danger for troops

By **MARIJKE COX**

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A BOMB disposal robot to be used by security forces on the front line has been created by designers at a specialist manufacturing firm.

A team from NIC Instruments Ltd in Folkestone teamed up with experts from the Department of Computer and Communications Engineering at the University of Greenwich at Medway to make the state-of-the-art robot.

The lightweight machine, which can climb stairs and open doors, will be used by soldiers on bomb disposal missions in countries such as Afghanistan.

It is controlled by a wireless device from several hundred metres away and holds nuclear, biological and chemical weapons sensors.

The machine, which measures just 72cm by 35cm and weighs 48 kilograms, can move at eight miles an hour and contains cameras which relay images back to the operator.

Designers of the robot say it is lighter and more flexible than traditional bomb disposal units and will be easier for soldiers to carry while



PARTNERSHIP: Waqar Amin, of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships with Steve Wisbey and Dr Steve Woodhead with the robot

out in the field. It also boasts a versatile gripper which can carry and manipulate items.

Dr Steve Woodhead, reader in computer systems and networks within the university's school of engineering at the Medway campus, said: "It's great to be able to employ our specialist knowledge to support a small manufacturing company in its next stage of development, as well as producing a vital security product."

Managing director of NIC, Steve Wisbey, said the partnership with the University of Greenwich had allowed the company to expand its technology base considerably.

"We are now exploring way of extending our partnership," he added.

Key customers for the new robot are expected to include the defence and security forces of several EU countries.

Building a happy neighbourhood

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Residents and businesses will also be able to receive council tax rebates or vouchers for local services if they take part in efforts to improve the area.

Baroness Newlove said: "For too long too many people have either not known how to get involved, have not been listened to when they have tried to speak out, or felt nothing would ever change.

"This report sets out how we can change things by empowering communities. Everyone has a role to play,

communities must begin to take more responsibility and local agencies must lessen their grip on the decision-making process and trust the people to solve problems.

"In the past six months I have seen good people make a fantastic difference and am impressed with the work I have seen in Shepway. I know there is a big appetite for volunteering.

"Together we can change the way we approach activism and build a happy, safe neighbourhood."

Ann McGovern, a community activist in Shepway, said: "The work

we have done in Shepway shows what can be achieved when communities come together. I am proud that the efforts we have made may help other communities realise what is possible.

"Over the last six weeks, since Baroness Newlove first visited us, we have made lots of progress.

"We have been chasing highways for our grit bin and it is going to be fitted in three weeks and we are in the middle of organising a street party for August. Paperwork has been made easier and we are getting more help from the council."

Students work with fire service for qualification

A GROUP of students have been awarded a qualification from Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS).

The teenagers from Folkestone have earned a BTEC qualification after completing a six-week course.

Nine students from the Pent Valley Technology College in Folkestone were awarded their qualification at Shepway council's offices.

KFRS is the only fire service in the region offering the BTEC Level 2 Fire and Rescue Service in the Community award.

Equivalent to a GCSE at grade A-C level, it has been delivered by KFRS's Youth Engagement Team (YET), in partnership with the Shepway Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Funded by KFRS and Shepway CSP, the course is targeted towards vulnerable 14- to 16-year-olds and is offered as to those who may be struggling to achieve in a conventional school environment.

It aims to provide learners with an opportunity to develop a range of skills and knowledge, including working with a range of fire service equipment, as well as learning about the fire service as a whole.

It was based at Folkestone fire station, and the students learned through a 'hands-on' approach, using and developing their skills by problem-solving in practical situations.

Personal skills are developed, such as confidence, communication and teamwork, and the course aims to

help students gain transferable skills that will help them find employment and further education, and provide an access route into public services.

Shepway District Council chair Susan Carey and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority chair Bryan Cope presented the certificates alongside KFRS Community Safety manager Charlie Smith, KFRS partnership manager Stuart Tickle, KFRS group manager Nick James and Shepway CSP Anti-Social Behaviour manager Shaun Taylor.

Mr Smith said: "By interacting with fire fighters and instructors, students engage and develop a positive approach to learning.

"This is a significant achievement for this group of young people."

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£6m sports facilities 'will be best in Kent'

By **MARIJKE COX**

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WORK has started on the development of a multi-million pound state-of-the-art sports ground.

The facility in Cheriton Road will boast two new astro-turf pitches, net-ball courts and a multi-use games area.

Demolition of the worn-out pitches at the old sports ground in Cheriton, in Folkestone, started on Monday and this will be followed by the construction of the new facilities.

The regeneration of the ground is part of a three-part development, supported by the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust and Shepway District Council, who will lease the site to the new Cheriton Road Sports Ground Trust.

A pavilion and sports hall, which the council says will provide Folkestone with some of the best sporting facilities of their type in the country, will be built later in the year.

Andy Mainwaring, a trustee of Cheriton Road Sports Ground Trust and chairman of the development committee delivering the project, said the construction represented the biggest single investment in sport in Shepway in many years.

"This project will deliver the best facilities in Kent for hockey, cricket, and other sports," he said. "It works closely with Shepway District Council to ensure as many people as possible benefit from the scheme and this is something to be proud of."

The cost of the development is expected to reach £6 million.

Sports development officer at Shepway council, Wilbert Greaves, added: "This is a fabulous development and I offer our sincere thanks to the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust for making this possible."

During the construction work, some sports clubs are using the Folkestone Academy's artificial pitch.

For details call Steve Barton at the academy on 01303 842400 or email sbarton@folkestoneacademy.com. For help on finding a suitable pitch or to find out more about the Cheriton Road Sports Ground call Wilbert Greaves on 01303 853251 or Andy Mainwaring on 07768 504582.



PRIDE OF DISTRICT: An artist's impression of the new facilities planned at the Cheriton Road Sports Ground. The £6 million regeneration is being supported by the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust



Waste scheme up for award

AN INNOVATIVE recycling scheme saving taxpayers £700,000 a year has been nominated for a prestigious award.

Shepway and Dover district councils, alongside Kent County Council, have been named as finalists in the Improvement and Efficiency South East annual awards for their groundbreaking shared waste and recycling service.

The local authorities joined up their environmental services team and in an innovative move, awarded a joint contract for waste collection and street cleaning.

The move has saved taxpayers in Shepway £700,000 and is due to be rolled out in the summer.

Deputy leader of the council and cabinet member for strategic services Cllr Rory Love said he hoped the community was proud the council was securing outside recognition and winning awards for its services.

"We have had enquiries from all over the country about the innovative way we have worked to improve our recycling and waste collection and to save taxpayers their hard-earned money," he said.

"Shepway is now seen as a leading

council for our groundbreaking new contract."

The councils have been nominated in the Working Together category by the Improvement and Efficiency South East partnership, which looks to promote innovation, value for money and transparency in public bodies.

The latest recognition follows a national award last year where Shepway's council tax and benefits team were finalists in the independent Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation awards for the "most improved team" category.

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Royal street parties call is greeted with apathy

By **MARIJKE COX**

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THEY are a great British tradition, an excuse for communities to put up the bunting and join together to celebrate days of national importance.

But the age-old street party seems to have lost its appeal ahead of the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

For with just days left before the deadline for road closure applications, only 54 have been approved by Kent County Council.

This is despite the authority saying it would waive any charges for people wishing to host street parties to celebrate the Royal wedding on April 29.

Ashford and Swale districts saw the least interest, with just one lonely application each, and Canterbury – although the county's only city – had a measly two, with one of those for the village of Littlebourne.

Sevenoaks had three applications; Thanet, Dartford and Gravesham four each; Shepway five; Dover seven; and Maidstone 10.

Tunbridge Wells, which was granted Royal status in 1909 by King Edward VII due to its popularity with members of the Royal family, had just six applications.

Tracey Murphy, who is organising a street party in Joydens Wood in Dartford, said she was surprised there were so few applications.

The mother-of-three said her street had a party for the Silver Jubilee in 1977 and for Charles and Diana's wedding in 1981, when thousands of people took to the streets to celebrate with their friends and neighbours.

Mrs Murphy said the idea for a street party this year came during the cold snap.



CELEBRATIONS: Street parties ensued after Charles' and Diana's nuptials in 1981 (above), but will the streets be full after William and Kate (right) say 'I do' next month?

"Our road never gets gritted because it's a close. I put notes through people's doors asking if they could come out and help clear the road," she said.

"Everybody came out and after we cleared the snow we drank mulled wine and said we should have a party. We then thought it would be nice to have one for the Royal Wedding."

The 40-year-old joined mother-of-two Angela Reilly to organise a residents' meeting to discuss ideas.

Now, with just a month to go, the street has arranged the road closure through KCC, entertainment and games, face painting and a barbecue.

Mrs Murphy said: "At the moment we've got about 100 people coming, but we're expecting 150. We're selling tickets and the money goes towards all the food and bunting."

But while she and her neighbours party together on April 29, other dis-



tricts will be a little quieter.

KCC is supplying free signs for organisers to place at the point their road is being closed off on the day.

Lord Lieutenant of Kent Allan Willett, the Queen's representative in the county, has accepted an invitation to attend the Royal Wedding at Westminster Abbey.

He said: "It will provide a welcome morale boost and splash of colour in these difficult times and I am confident the event will be well celebrated in our towns and villages."

• To apply for a road closure visit www.kent.gov.uk or call 08458 247 800 by Monday, March 28.

Arrest in rape case 25 years after attack

A MIDDLE-AGED man has been charged in connection with an alleged rape that took place almost 25 years ago.

Martin Frank Eke, from Douglas Road in Tonbridge, was arrested following a reinvestigation by Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate's Cold Case Investigation Team into the rape of a 22-year-old woman in 1986.

The 46-year-old is due to appear at Channel Magistrate Court in Folkestone on April 14.

A woman reported she had been raped near Folkestone West train station on October 2, 1986, as she walked home from a night out with friends.

Dame Kelly on board to name super ferry

DAME Kelly Holmes has officially named P&O Ferries' new super ferry the Spirit of Britain at a special ceremony.

The double Olympic champion took the starring role in the event aboard the new ship at Dover's Eastern Docks attended by 300 guests.

At Thursday's ceremony, Dame Kelly said: "As a double Olympic champion I know about the will to win and the desire to stay out in front. As a businesswoman myself, I know many of the same qualities to running a company and building great brands."

"I agreed to become godmother of the Spirit of Britain because I recognised many of those traits in P&O ferries. Not only is it a household name, it is one of the biggest employers in East Kent and, of course my home county."

Spirit of Britain has capacity for up to 2,000 passengers, and three separate vehicle decks capable of carrying nearly four kilometres of traffic parked end to end.

She will be joined on the Dover-Calais service by her identical twin, Spirit of France, in September.

Minister unveils plans to revive county tourism

TOURISM minister John Penrose has revealed his hopes of drawing in international crowds to Kent through a new multi-million pound strategy.

On a visit to the county Mr Penrose told KoS he also wanted to promote holidays at home and show residents the delights on their own doorsteps.

But the Tory minister, who was in Kent for the official opening of the Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa, said this time Government was taking a different course of action.

"The private sector has put in £50 million and the public sector £50m for a new marketing strategy," he said.

"It's not something we usually do, it's normally Government money used; the last time Government did this was after the foot and mouth outbreak when tourism in the UK dwindled and the private sector helped."

"But we have to do things in a different way now due to financial pressures and getting the two sectors to work



NEW DIRECTION: Tourism minister John Penrose

together will mean people working in the industry benefiting and having more of a say about how money is spent."

Last year David Cameron appealed to the British tourism industry to help create a marketing fund of more than £100m.

He praised the "magnificent" response to his call for action.

The new tourism plan looks to take advantage of the economic opportunities presented by the Royal Wedding, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year and the London Olympics, with hopes of bringing in four million extra overseas visi-

tors over the next four years.

This would bring an additional £2 billion to the economy and help create 50,000 new jobs across the country.

Mr Penrose said tourism was a priority for the Government.

"There are three things we want to do; we want to bring in more people from the rest of the world, encourage British people to spend their holidays at home, and raise the level of productivity in the industry," he said.

"This will give a real boost, especially in places like Dover and Kent where there is the coast, beautiful countryside and heritage. There is so much for people to see and do here."

"This is a chance to rebalance the economy."

Kent's tourism industry is worth £3.2 billion to the local economy and supports 63,000 jobs.

Mr Penrose's visit was for the launch of the Dover Marina Hotel and Spa on the town's seafront which has undergone an extensive renovation to restore it to its former Regency glory.

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THE INTERVIEW



BY ED HILL

Louise driving for the top

LOUISE COOK never imagined when she was a young girl driving around in her toy buggy that it would lead to a career in motorsport.

But then the 23-year-old from Maidstone stepped into a rally car in a competition to be a female rally driver.

She said: "I'm not from a motorsport background, but my dad used to take me to car shows and to Brands Hatch, so I think he passed on his passion to me."

"There was a competition to get more ladies into rallying and the prize was the organisers paying for a season's rallying."

"I didn't win, but I came second out of 1,000 entries and that gave me the confidence to get my rallying licence. I then spent my student loan on my first rally."

Louise managed to come 51st out of 105 entries in that first event.

She said: "It was doing so well with so little experience that led to me catching the bug."

Taking part in one race may have been easy, but putting together a campaign for a full season is a more difficult prospect. Rallying is an expensive business, and if you want to be competitive there is a constant hunt for sponsorship.

Louise said: "I came up with the idea of getting 500 companies to give me £50 each, for a chance of getting sponsorship on the car. That paid for most of my first year."

In her first season, Louise achieved her goal of finishing in the top 10 of the British Rally Championship Challenge.

She has now stepped up a category, meaning she can reconnaissance courses before the rally and prepare her own pace notes. The preparation means faster times, but harder battles with other drivers.

Louise competes in the N class category. Her Ford Fiesta is relatively close to the road car that most of us might drive, although she has rebuilt the engine to improve its performance.

She said: "I am really excited about competing this season. The main difficulty is getting the money, because it is about double the budget compared with last year."



AMBITION: Louise Cook, pictured above and left in action, is aiming to be the first woman world rally champion

"I have to do it so I can make it to the World Rally Championship Academy, which is the junior world championship for under-25s."

The former council receptionist knows she has to improve to get to the top, and spends some of the winter in Sweden, driving on ice to improve her skills.

"You can refine everything," she said. "My car control has massively improved. Any little mistake and the car reacts and punishes you, because there is hardly any grip."

She is not fazed by being one of the very few women who have tried to make it in the male-dominated world of motorsport: "You have to be thick-skinned if you are going to put yourself in a situation where you stand out, but it is such a competitive sport that I would have to put up with stick anyway."

"All the guys take the mick out of each other and play psychological games. They treat me no different, and it's not like tennis, where you win less money as a female."

Louise is well aware that being a woman

driver does help her to get noticed.

"It is a selling point, and people know I am going to get more media attention, but it's still a struggle," she said. "I would like to find one big sponsor."

She is determined to achieve her ambition of being the first woman world rally champion, and her next race is the Bulldog Rally in Wales on Saturday, April 2.

She said: "I never thought I would be in the British Rally Championship in my second season. It has been a fast learning curve."

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Dame's deep bond with castle

By **JOE BILL**

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WHEN not having to reign in a rampant James Bond, Dame Judi Dench likes to relax in a quiet corner of the Kent countryside.

Though it may not stay so quiet for long, as she hopes to persuade the makers of the 007 films to shoot in the county.

The 76-year-old actress, famous for her role as M in the last six James Bond movies, lives in the county and spends a lot of time at the picturesque, historic royal household, Hever Castle, near Sevenoaks.

The former home of Henry VIII's second wife Anne Boleyn, first attracted the Oscar winner 26 years ago as place to walk her dog, but now she takes her grandchildren in the summer.

She said: "Hever was the first place we came to for a picnic and we've come back here every year since. It's a lovely place and very famous, of course."

"We all know who met who here, and it's very unspoilt. The gardens are just beautiful."

Dame Judi was unveiling the new Hever Castle Rose (Horquinsey), created by renowned rose grower, the late Colin Horner.

The rose, which features velvety deep-red blooms offset by golden stamens, was planted by the actress close to the castle moat, setting it apart from the thousands of rose bushes in the gardens.



Pictures: PAUL JERRENT



I SPY: Daniel Craig as 007

DIGGING IN: Dame Judi Dench at Hever Castle for the rose planting, inset

However, Dame Judi did admit that both she and her late husband, Michael Williams, were keen on gardens – but not on gardening.

She said: "I'm not a keen gardener, no. But I have somebody who is. I am a keen sitter in my garden. I love it. And to get roses which have been grown and given to you for a certain occasion is wonderful. A great friend in

Scotland died not so long ago and we had a rose grown for him. It's just a lovely way to remember somebody and we now have one here at Hever."

The York-born actress recently returned from filming in Hollywood with Clint Eastwood and Leonardo DiCaprio. Dame Judi will play DiCaprio's mother in a film about the first director of the FBI, J Edgar

Hoover. Eastwood is directing the film.

Dame Judi said: "He is the grandmaster. He is everything everyone says about him and more. Working with a legend is great. I have always seemed to be in the right place at the right time and had luck."

Dame Judi claimed the Hoover movie was the first time she had filmed in Hollywood. "But what about the Bond films?" she was asked. In true M style, she said: "Never – James Bond is all British."

The star is no stranger to royalty, having been made a Dame by the Queen in 1988 and played Queen Elizabeth I in the Oscar-winning Shakespeare In Love.

But it was her role as M that dominated the questions during the rose planting.

She said: "M would like Hever, but would probably want to sit behind one of the little windows in the castle, with a telescope."

"I don't get to make decisions regarding the filming, but I will do my best to get the Bond people to use Hever as a location."

Dame Judi starts filming the as-yet untitled new Bond film in November, her seventh, which also makes her the longest serving member of the current Bond team.

Having bagged Baftas, Golden Globes, an Oscar and haul of other awards, Dame Judi will now front a £100 million television campaign to bring tourists to Britain.

The VisitBritain commercial, entitled Invitation To The World, was filmed at Hever Castle and is to be broadcast around the globe after April's royal wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton.

For more information about Hever Castle and Gardens, visit www.hevercastle.co.uk

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The Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health NHS Trust Board Meeting in Public will also take place at the New Life Family Church on the same day starting at 1.30pm and closing at 4.30pm. Refreshments are provided between the Showcase and the Board Meeting.

Copies of the Board Papers are available on our website, please visit
www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk.

For questions relating to the Board Meeting please contact
Jill Mackenzie on 01233 667840 or email jill.mackenzie@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk.

Dignity and grief

By **MARIJKE COX**

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THE operations commander of Kent's specialist search-and-rescue team has described the devastation witnessed in Japan and the quiet dignity of the people who had lost everything.

Station manager John Mazzezy spoke to KoS after Kent Fire and Rescue Service's urban search crew returned from its rescue mission in stricken Japan last week.

The 46-year-old from Pembury spent almost three days hunting for survivors alongside his colleagues in the devastated towns of Ofunato and Kamaishi, where tens of thousands of people were missing.

The team was made up of fire-fighter Dean Langley, 46, from Sevenoaks; fire-fighter Matthew Scott from Maidstone; crew manager Heather Heath from Folkestone; watch manager Alan Downes, from Broadstairs; and watch manager Dave Hudson, also from Broadstairs.

"We were one of the first teams to go into the town of Ofunato to help the local support services," said Mr Mazzezy. "As we travelled down from our base, the area on the outskirts was more or less untouched, but once we got to where the tsunami hit, just about everything was destroyed."

"The sheer scale was immense –



almost everything had been damaged. There were some people at the remains of their houses trying to pick up family mementoes – they looked shocked and traumatised."

Mr Mazzezy was also part of the UK's search-and-rescue team in the Haiti disaster in last year.

He said: "In Haiti there were many bodies on the streets waiting for collection, but in Japan bodies that would normally be there were drawn out to sea by the tsunami and were washing up on the coast."

Asked about his most difficult moment, the father-of-four said: "I was with one of the teams from Mid and West Wales in part of Kamaishi that was particularly damaged."

"A local fire officer was standing outside what was left of his house, and the Mid and West Wales team went in and identified four members of his family who had died. When the Japanese fire officer received the news he simply bowed and thanked the team for the information. He maintained his composure."

Mr Mazzezy said the Japanese were dignified and full of hope, even bringing food to the rescue teams.

"Even though we as a team are self-sufficient, people were insisting on giving us food," he said.

"It was quite clear it was not acceptable for us to turn it down."

Kent's team leader Alan Downes said the support from the Japanese

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amid the rubble



survivors was humbling. "We were faced with a scene of total devastation in Ofunato, and yet despite the fact that most of the local community had lost everything, they were extremely supportive, expressing their extreme gratitude for our efforts, which was a very humbling experience," he said.

The UK International Search and Rescue Team, which included Kent's own heroes, was sadly unable to find any survivors in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami but did detect three bodies.

The death toll for the disaster has reached more than 18,000, with some 450,000 people homeless.

Mr Mazzei said that during their

time in Japan they would often be woken by severe aftershocks from the earthquake.

"There was a power failure, which meant there were problems with the tsunami warning system, so we couldn't work through the night," he said.

"While we wanted to have the maximum time searching, we had to be aware of the risks."

Mr Mazzei said on his return to the UK that it took a little while to adjust but admitted that seven days in the devastation was "nothing".

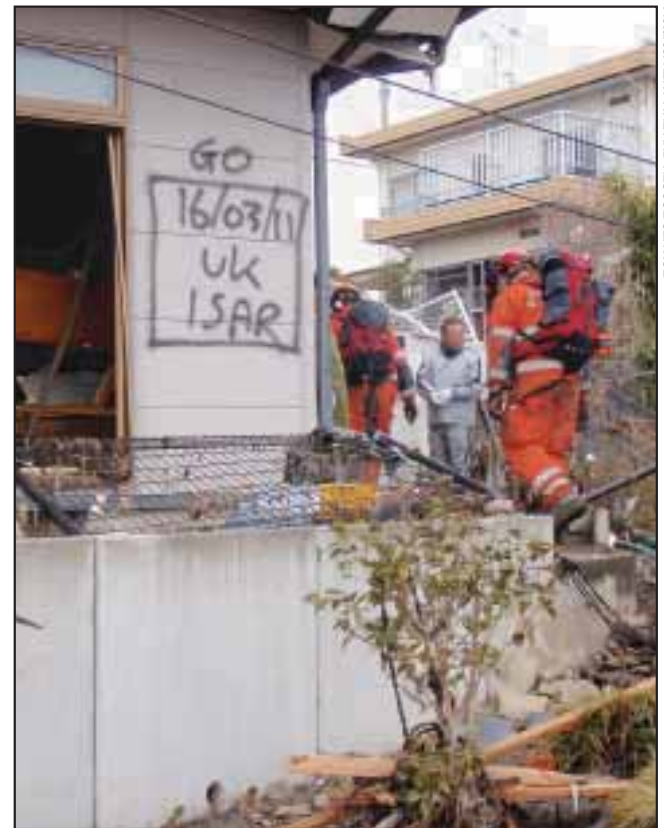
"People in Japan have work ahead of them now to try to rebuild what they have lost – seven days is nothing when you consider their plight."

Heavy snowfall and falling temperatures after the start of the disaster led the UK and US rescuers to announce the end of their mission as the window of opportunity of finding survivors closed.

International development minister Stephen O'Brien praised the Kent team members for their courage and professionalism in Japan.

"Despite cold, hard conditions, Kent Fire and Rescue Service's team worked relentlessly to search for survivors in the utter devastation of the earthquake and tsunami," he said.

Find more news and sport updated
www.kentnews.co.uk



Pictures: KENT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

MISSION: Pictures from left: Kent's Urban Search and Rescue team (from left, Dave Hudson, Alan Downes, Heather Heath, Dean Langley, Matt Scott, John Mazzei and Steve Partington) – in front is Cheshire FRS USAR member Steve Buckley with his rescue dog, Brin; members of the team search through the rubble and ruins of a town hit by the tsunami; the UK-ISAR team use coded markings sprayed on buildings to notify other teams of the status of the search in that area

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Darwin's Down House and Chatham Dockyard on shortlist, writes NICK AMES

Sites bid for UN recognition

THE county has two sites that have made it onto the shortlist for World Heritage status to line up alongside the Taj Mahal and Great Wall of China.

Chatham Dockyard and the rest of the town's historic military sites, and Darwin's Landscape Laboratory in Bromley, have both been put forward by tourism and heritage minister John Penrose to rank alongside the Serengeti plains of east Africa, and the Pyramids of Giza, in Egypt.

The Historic Dockyard, Fort Amherst and Great Lines of Chatham, as well as the memorial to one of the world's greatest scientists, are now on what is called the Tentative List, alongside 10 other sites across the UK and on British territories overseas.

These include the Lake District, the Forth Rail Bridge and the islands of St Helena, and the Turks and Caicos.

Canterbury Cathedral is already listed.

There are 911 World Heritage sites across the globe which have been designated as important enough for the United Nations to ensure their preservation.

They are subject to planning restrictions but financial aid is available for upkeep and development. Should they be threatened in any way international law can be bought to bear and relief actions organised.

Those campaigning at both Kent sites were delighted at the news.

"This is great news for the whole of



SHORTLIST: Charles Darwin's home, Down House, left, and the ropery at Chatham Historic Dockyard, above, are both on the Tentative List for World Heritage status

Its supporters say the landscape is of outstanding universal value because of its unique cultural significance as the open-air laboratory in which the theory of evolution by natural selection was developed.

They point out how it provided unique insights into the scientific understanding of natural life and biodiversity.

Throughout recent history, they say the ideas that were developed from daily observations and experiments at Down have had a profound influence on the life sciences, medicine, agriculture, philosophy, the creative arts and general views of humankind's relation to other living creatures.

The list will now be considered by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

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www.yourmedway.co.uk

Medway," said Joanne Cable, World Heritage Manager at Medway council.

"What we have – which the others have not – is a completed bid approved by all relevant parties.

"If a bid was put in now, we would be ready.

"What is important about the area is its historic links, especially with the Royal Navy. At one time, Britain had 800 ships at sea at any one time and obviously this was a major factor in world affairs.

Battle of Trafalgar

"HMS Victory, Admiral Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar, was built at Chatham Dockyard as were many other historic vessels."

The scientific importance of Darwin has been emphasised by supporters of the Bromley bid.

Darwin's Landscape Laboratory is Down House, its gardens and the countryside around Downe, Cudham and Keston where Darwin lived and worked for the 40 years, including on his work *On the Origin of Species*.

The naturalist and explorer wrote in his 1876 autobiography: "One problem of great importance... is the tendency in organic beings descended from the same stock to diverge in character as they become modified... I can remember the very spot in the road, whilst in my carriage, when to my joy the solution occurred to me; and this was long after I had come to Down."

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M25 murderer Noye 'will keep trying for freedom'

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

HE WAS one of Britain's most notorious career criminals, a master of his trade and a legend of the criminal underworld.

But in 1996, Kenneth Noye's fiery temper ended with a murder conviction, a life sentence, and the infamous title of the M25 Killer.

Despite pleas of self defence, in 2000 he was jailed for the murder of 21-year-old Stephen Cameron, who was stabbed to death on an M25 slip road near Swanley, in front of his 17-year-old fiancée.

On Tuesday, after two failed appeals in

2001 and 2004, three judges rejected a new bid to have his conviction overturned.

It followed a call by the Criminal Cases Review Commission in October, 2010, to refer the case to the Court of Appeal, stating two key witnesses in Noye's original trial were "so discredited" the conviction should be quashed.

But appeal judges said this week "there was no doubt that Mr Cameron was deliberately stabbed by the appellant".

Noye, 63, who was born in Bexleyheath and lived in West Kingsdown before his arrest, is no stranger to prison. In 1986 he served eight years of a 14-year sentence for his part in the infamous Brink's-Mat robbery at Heathrow Airport.

Surveillance

Before his conviction, Noye was under surveillance by police and in January, 1985, he killed an officer he discovered in his garden.

A jury found him not guilty on the grounds of self defence, but just a year later he was convicted of conspiracy to handle gold robbed in the Brink's-Mat raid and was jailed for eight years.

Just two years after his release, he stabbed Mr Cameron.

True crime author Wensley Clarkson, who penned *Kenny Noye: Public Enemy No 1*, said Noye was a successful career criminal whose temper ended up getting him into trouble.

Speaking to KoS before the appeal result was announced, Mr Clarkson said he wasn't surprised Noye was pushing for release.

"He still proclaims his innocence and won't just sit there and do nothing about it.



KILLER: Kenny Noye's temper lead to the M25 murder, claims true crime author

"That has become his full-time job in prison. He's very active and a workaholic.

"He's got enterprises on the outside world which people are running for him, and he wants to get out.

"He's been working hard on this and tried different versions of appeal – he's not just sitting in prison doing nothing."

After the murder of Mr Cameron, speculation was raised over whether he knew Noye, and the fight was over a drug deal.

Mr Clarkson said: "I've heard so many different versions about whether he knew Stephen Cameron. I have no idea what the truth is. There was talk of them knowing each other, but this can be quite hurtful to Mr Cameron's family.

"What I would say is Kent and the south east of London are the criminal hinterlands of Britain. It's not surprising if people know each other."

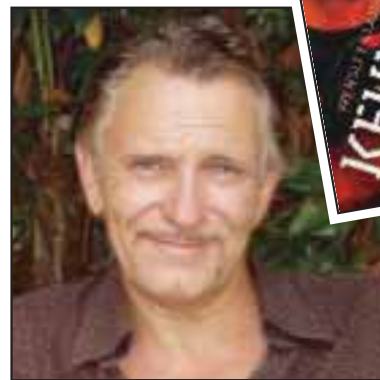
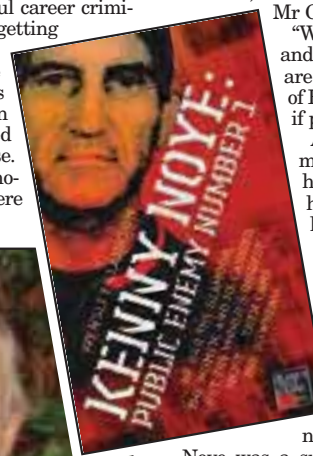
Although having never met Noye, Mr Clarkson has spoken to members of his family and others who knew him, and discovered he had high-profile people such as an MP and judge "in his pocket".

Mr Clarkson said: "Noye is very respected and a legend, but for all the wrong reasons.

"It was quite clear the M25 killing was not a run-of-the-mill crime.

Noye was a successful career criminal, but it his temper got him in trouble.

"The poverty in the 50s drove people to crime. He wasn't like the Krays or the Richardsons – it was just him. He was fearful of no-one."



AUTHOR: Wensley Clarkson, and his book

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By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

PARENTS are invited to voice their opinions on controversial plans to axe free travel for pupils at grammar and faith schools.

If proposals go ahead, children at selective or church schools that are not the nearest to their home may lose out on subsidised transport and be made to pay a contributory fee.

Education chiefs at County Hall said they have a legal duty to provide free home-to-school travel – costing £14 million a year and worth more than £450 each – when the nearest, appropriate school is more than two miles away for children under eight, and three miles for older children.

But in many cases parents opt for grammar or church schools that are not their nearest, and Kent County Council, despite not being legally obliged, has paid for the travel. The authority is now proposing to stop providing support for these pupils, starting from September 1, 2012.

Children already receiving help with travel before this date will not be affected.

KCC cabinet member for education, learning and skills, Cllr Sarah Hohler, said it was a result of pressure on public services.

"The need to save money in the public sector has prompted a radical re-think of what the council can do," she said.

"Kent County Council has produced a budget to deliver £95 million of savings this year and a further £65 million next year throughout the authority.

"Part of these wider savings include a reduction in the school transport budget.

"We need to focus on our legal commitments and to look at what optional elements of transport we can afford to maintain in the current financial climate."

KCC is proposing to provide discretionary funding to support the popular Kent

Have your say on free school travel cuts plan



TICKET TO RIDE: Have your say on funding

Freedom Pass, where parents and pupils can pay a one-off fee of £100 and use the bus network any time, all year.

Cllr Hohler said: "The pass, introduced by KCC four years ago, continues to be hugely successful, with more than 26,500 of Kent's 11 to 16-year-olds enjoying use of public bus services, not only to get to and from school, but also at weekends, in the evenings and during school holidays.

"I hope people will take the time to respond to this consultation.

"Grammar and faith schools are very important to me and the county council. We are keen to hear all views to ensure we can move forward in a fully-informed way."

But Lib Dem councillor and opposition spokesman for education Martin Vye slammed the plans.

"This will make it very difficult for chil-

dren and young people from lower income families to have the same sort of choice of school as those from more well-off families," he said.

"The Conservatives have said in the past they want more children from low income families to be given the chance of a grammar school education; this measure heads in completely the opposite direction.

"There is the suggestion this is all going to be OK because Kent has the Freedom Pass, but the Conservatives have just increased the charge by a shocking 100 per cent, and what about the 16 to 18-year-olds who are not entitled, or families with several children?"

"There is also no provision for paying by instalments."

Parents are invited to have their say before the May 6 deadline by visiting www.kent.gov.uk/transportconsultation or writing to Home to School Transport Consultation, Room 2.35, Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ

Government funding for a concessionary travel scheme, which provides free local bus travel for elderly and disabled people is also being significantly reduced.

It means KCC will have to operate a national standard scheme where passes will be accepted from 9.30am-11pm, Monday to Friday, and all day at weekends and bank holidays. For the past three years KCC provided additional funding to allow pass holders to travel from 9am on weekdays.



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Big weekend out

THOUSANDS will descend on the county's top attractions as part of My Kent Big Weekend.

More than 51,600 applications were entered in the ballot for tickets, which offer free entry to more than 120 attractions and events this weekend.

Organiser Visit Kent called it a celebration of the local tourism industry. Chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh said: "It's an opportunity for local people to explore the attractions and destinations which entertain our 56 million visitors a year."

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Celebrating

HOME to thriving communities of Muslims, Sikhs, Gurkhas, Chinese and many other races and religions, Kent must be as multicultural a place as they come.

With its proximity to both London and Europe, the Garden of England is a popular destination for people of all backgrounds to settle, visit and enjoy.

But Prime Minister David Cameron's recent comments on the supposed failure of state multiculturalism raise serious questions as to how diverse Kent really is.

While the majority of people are capable of sharing their communities with others, no matter what their background or beliefs, is that because they want to or because they have to?

Do they really live in the same communities, or rather separate communities in the same villages or towns?

Professor Frank Furedi, an author and lecturer of sociology at the University of Kent, said: "I think people have always had a clear sense of their own identity, and sometimes the way they make sense of their own world is to compare it with the lifestyles of others."

"Sometimes people are concerned if their own world is changing or being influenced in ways they don't quite understand, but quite often they are attracted to other people's customs and traditions and will actively join in."

"Compared with other parts of the world, I think Kent is a pretty open county. That's not to say every individual is welcoming of other people's cultures, because there are pockets of suspicion, and sometimes people's fear is that their way of life could be disrupted and altered by others."



EDUCATION: More positive media images of minorities will help encourage tolerance, it is claimed. Top, celebrating other cultures and traditions fosters better relations



"But by and large, you will find it's actually a pretty liberal and open place to live."

Stick a pin into a map of Kent and it is likely the area you select will be home to at least one community of people with beliefs and traditions vastly different to your own.

For example, Gravesend has a thriving Asian population and is home to one of the largest Sikh temples in the UK, while there are more than 3,500 Polish ex-pats spread out across towns including Canterbury, Maidstone and Ashford, and a growing number of Germans in Tunbridge Wells.

Evidence suggests the way certain groups are portrayed on television and in the press affects how they are treated in public, and the editor of the Medway-based Nubia magazine for the black and ethnic minority (BME) community, Angela Asieba, says this is certainly the case.

"There seems to be a lack of awareness and education in Kent, which results in people of colour being labelled and stereotyped."

"We should be promoting positive images of the BME community, because if you only focus on the negatives, you will end up with hostility towards people."

Available online as well as in libraries, community centres and places of worship, Nubia magazine focuses on education, health and business issues and showcases BME people in a positive light.

Mrs Asieba, who was born in England to Jamaican parents, says people need to be better educated about the contributions made by all members of society, regardless of

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differences that bind us

Kent is the gateway to Europe and home to communities from many different countries. Chief county reporter STEVE KNIGHT investigates whether Kent is living proof that multiculturalism can work, or if the experiment has failed



COMMUNITY: There is a large population of Sikhs in Gravesend, which is home to one of largest temples in the UK. The Gurkhas have found a warm welcome in the Folkestone area

the colour of their skin. "Medway in particular has a long way to go," she said. "It's worrying to think what sort of abuse people from abroad receive here, especially as I've lived here all my life and get so much hostility myself."

"The only way to tackle the problem is to talk about other cultures in a celebratory way."

The outpouring of public support for the hugely successful Gurkha Justice Campaign of 2009 perhaps adds credence to Mrs Asieba's point of view.

Portrayed as loyal, hard-working and coura-

geous – all positive character traits – the former Army servicemen are therefore rarely spoken of in a bad way, even though the law of averages suggests not every Gurkha can be a model citizen.

Nevertheless, the affection for the Gurkha community in Kent – based mainly in and around Folkestone – has made it easier for them to settle in the county.

"I would proudly say that multiculturalism is working very well in Kent," said Folkestone town councillor and retired Gurkha soldier Dhan Gurung.

"We are working hard to become one community here in Folkestone."

"People can always learn from the culture and customs of others. For example, Gurkha people have very good discipline and show respect to others, and these are traits we hope to share with everyone."

Whereas the Prime Minister was criticised for showing a "lack of clarity" with his comments on multiculturalism, his deputy – Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg – came up with a more concise definition of what the concept should mean.

It should be seen as a process by which people respect and communicate with each other, he said, rather than build walls between each other.

Prof Furedi shares a similar view.

"It's important to understand that we belong to the same community," he said. "People are often critical of multiculturalism because they don't know how to celebrate what binds us together."

"We should be aspiring to achieve a more robust sense of community while being open to other people's customs and traditions."

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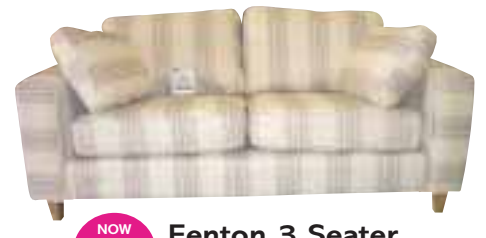
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IMMEDIATE DELIVERY ON STOCK ITEMS

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

NOT everyone was happy about the two-day strike by lecturers at the University of Kent this week – protesters had to scatter at the gates of the Medway campus when one worker tore through the group in his car.

The move was blasted as “dangerous” by one of the demonstration organisers, Ian Bruce.

He is the University and College Union’s pensions officer and also a lecturer in nanobiotechnology at Kent’s School of Biosciences.

Mr Bruce said: “This one individual just drove through the group and they had to dodge his car.”

“Luckily no-one was hurt.”

The lecturers were striking over changes to their pension schemes. A last-minute attempt to broker a deal failed and universities around the UK held the protests on Tuesday and Thursday, including Kent and its campuses in Medway, Canterbury and Tonbridge.

They want to stop a reduction in benefits through the Universities Superannuation Scheme.

Mr Bruce said: “There was an enormous turnout for the pickets, both students and staff. Parts of the university shut down, and there was a fantastic feeling of solidarity.”

He said they are willing to negotiate, but if an agreement cannot be reached, more strikes cannot be ruled out in future weeks.

The action led to fears some final-year students could miss out on their degrees, said Mr Bruce. He said the



PICKET LINE: Students joined the protest in support of their lecturers

Students back lecturers over pension strike

action could result in students’ exam papers being withheld or unmarked, leaving them at a severe disadvantage while other graduates snap up the few jobs available.

Nationally, the union said of the 63 universities affected, 64 per cent of UCU members voted for strike action, and 82 per cent voted for action short of a strike.

In Kent, just 166 UCU members out of 545 responded to a strike ballot at the University of Kent – including 120 in favour.

President of the Kent students’ union Helen Wood said its members had agreed to support the UCU lecturers’ campaign despite the damage it could cause to their degrees.

The employers’ proposals, due to be introduced on April 1, include an end to final-salary pensions for new members, the introduction of a pension age of 65 for all members, and the linking of pension increases to the lower consumer prices index of inflation.

Professor Keith Mander, deputy vice-chancellor for the University of Kent, said: “The University of Kent is working with all staff to meet these challenges and regrets that a minority see strike action as a productive way forward.”

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WWI nurse's diary up for sale

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE moving diaries of a nurse who treated soldiers after the bloody battles of World War One are set to be auctioned.

Lucy Kate 'Kitty' Card, from Tunbridge Wells, cared for injured soldiers from the Battle of the Somme and worked in military hospitals in Le Havre, Calais, Rouen, and Etaples.

Her collection of war memorabilia, which includes letters of thanks from the servicemen she treated, and her pristine Red Cross uniform, will go under the hammer at auctioneer Dreweatts on Tuesday, March 29.

Nurse Card never married, and her collection was passed down through her family to her great niece, Joyce Salmon, who died recently. She left it to a neighbour in Tunbridge Wells, who has decided to sell it.

Militaria expert Malcolm Claridge, from the

Bristol-based auctioneer, said: "It is a rare archive because it is so complete. It also contains letters from the boys she helped and from their families."

"We've estimated the diaries will make between £600 and £800, but they could fetch twice as much."

The collection was amassed between 1914 and 1919 and also includes medals and sepia photographs. In total, it is expected to sell for between £1,500 and £2,000.

In her diary, Nurse Card makes the relentless horror of life in the trenches come alive, with moving and compassionate accounts of the soldiers she met and treated.

Extracts from her two pocket diaries, written in pencil between 1915 and 1916, include: "March 31, 1916 - Harris, a boy in the ward who has a self-inflicted wound, so is a prisoner, gives a pint of blood to save the life of another patient, he's very sad after his op, but soon regains his spirits."

"July 3, 1916 - A day of days, full convoys in about five or six, about 1,000 passed through, men very cheerful, overflow slept on straw, did



MEDICAL TEAM: Nurse Card is on the far left behind the wounded soldiers. Left is her Red Cross uniform, which is also on sale

dressing by light of oil lamp till about 10, too late for supper.

"August 1, 1916 – On night duty tonight in the lines, many very ill, the whole night spent trying to ease their pains, two died within 10 mins of one another, oh! It's so sad.

"August 11, 1916 – Poor Walker has had his leg amputated.

"August 12, 1916 – Lcpl Walker died tonight, very sorry indeed, he was a splendid fellow and so good.

"August 13, 1916 – Smith had his leg amputated, seems very ill.

"August 14, 1916 – Several very ill tonight, poor Smith died just before we came on duty, Foster also died today, oh it is so sad, he was so patient, had his leg amputated."

Mr Claridge said: "Her five medals include the Royal Red Cross 2nd Class silver badge in its original Garrard & Co case. She was also mentioned in despatches in December, 1918."

Nurse Card, who was born in 1881, trained as a teacher before volunteering as an assistant Red Cross nurse in 1914. She was posted to Le Havre in Northern France and ended the Great War at the British military hospital in Calais.

After the war she returned to Tunbridge Wells, where she became headteacher at St Luke's School in 1925.

During World War Two, Nurse Card was in charge of anti-gas warfare training at the Kent and Sussex Hospital.

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the swinging sixties, from the sound of The Beatles to the fashions of Mary Quant.

A 'High Street' will also have food stalls offering favourites, from the family butchers to the great British curry.

The festival runs from 11am-5pm and entry is free, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

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Tracy Beaker author to revive a literary monster

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT'S THE return of Kent's mystical creature, the Psammead.

In case you didn't know, this magical, but somewhat scary and miserable beast, lives by the sea in the county, but no-one is sure where.

Pronounced Sammyadd, it was the star of the globally-popular book, *Five Children and It*.

It was dreamt up by famous author Edith Nesbit, who also wrote *The Railway Children*, early last century. Incredibly, *Five Children and It* has never been out of print since 1902.

But Puffin Books has decided a reboot is now essential, and has commissioned another famous author, Jacqueline Wilson, to write the new book.

The former children's laureate and creator of Tracy Beaker will be responsible for bringing a more contemporary version to the bookshelves.

It tells of the adventures of five youngsters who move from London to the Kent countryside.

In a gravel pit, they stumble upon



It, a sand fairy compelled to grant them a daily wish – all of which go hilariously wrong.

Jacqueline Wilson said the daunting job of updating such a classic is made easier thanks to her passionate love of Nesbit's work.

She said: "E Nesbit is

READ UP: The popular story of *Five Children and It*, by Edith Nesbit (inset) is set to return, thanks to the penmanship of Jacqueline Wilson



my all-time favourite classic children's author, so I'm delighted to have this chance to write a contemporary version of *Five Children and It*. It will be a very exciting challenge."

She already has book sales soaring past the 25 million mark, and is one of the top three best-selling authors of the century. As well as being the former Children's Laureate, she was made a Dame in 2008.

In the original story, the effects of the children's wishes only last until dusk, but they never work out as they planned. When they wish to be beautiful, their servants don't recognise them and shut them out of the house.

And when they wish that their baby brother was older, the grown-up he becomes bosses them around too much.

The original trilogy left readers on a cliffhanger. The children ask for one final wish to help find some stolen gems, and although the Psammead is seen once more, the story narrator refuses to divulge the outcome.

Edith Nesbit, who published under the name E Nesbit, died in New Romney in 1924, aged 65, and is buried in the graveyard at St Mary in the Marsh. She spent three years in Halsted, the location that helped give birth to the *Railway Children*, and 21 years in Eltham.

She co-founded the Fabian Society in 1884 and had written about 40 books for children.

She also wrote for adults, including collections of horror stories.

Puffin Books said the new *Five Children and It* will be out next August.

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Supermoon blamed as ships run aground

By **MATHEW BEECH**

matthew.beech@kosmedia.co.uk

STAR gazers in Kent were treated to a 'supermoon' last weekend, as the Earth, Sun and the Moon aligned to create the astrological phenomenon.

Many amateur astrologers took the opportunity of clear skies and the bright full Moon on Saturday, March 19, to photograph the lunar event.

A perigee-syzygy, or supermoon, graced the night sky as our planet's natural satellite was at its closest point to us since January 30, 2010.

The Moon was just 221,567 miles from the Earth, about 17,000 miles closer than average, due to its elliptical orbit.

As the Moon's orbit brought it closer to the Earth, its effects on Kent's tides was marginally increased, creating slightly higher or lower levels. The effect was blamed for five ships running aground along the south coast.

Although the phenomenon occurs roughly four to six times a year, the next extreme supermoon, which will coincide with a full Moon, is expected to take place on November 14, 2016.



MOON RIVER: The sea at Folkestone lit up

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CONNECTION: Elke Wisbey with her mum Glynnis and her guinea pig companion Tinkerbell

8-year fight with NHS wins £900k for paralysed child

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A GIRL left paralysed and brain damaged because of a 15-minute delay in her birth has won a massive compensation payout – after an eight-year battle with the NHS. Little Elke Wisbey was starved of oxygen for

those vital minutes – leaving her with permanent brain damage.

Elke was delivered by emergency Caesarean section at Maidstone Hospital, and now has to cope with quadriplegic cerebral palsy and will always need full-time care.

Now after eight years of legal claims and counter-claims, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust has finally agreed to take some responsibility for her upbringing, but has stopped short of admitting any blame for Elke's condition.

It has agreed to pay an immediate lump sum of £900,000, plus annual index-linked payments of £100,000. This rises to £155,000 when she turns 19. The Trust said this is because it recognises the family's difficulties in coping with Elke's condition.

Agreement

The High Court was told this week a full hearing would not be needed after the agreement was reached – it's understood 12 days had been put aside to hear the case.

Mother Glynnis works as a consultant for the Body Shop and also as support staff for a Maidstone charity called M4S, which helps parents in similar situations.

At the family home in Bearsted, near Maidstone, Glynnis, 45, said: "The reason for bringing the court case was that we needed the security that something was going to be there for Elke once my husband Matt, an engineer, and I are not here any longer to look after her.

"They have settled on the basis of giving us enough money to improve the care that Elke is going to have for the rest of her life."

She said: "Every day is different, and we try to do the best for her. She has a lot of complex needs and is very susceptible to chest infections, so we are back at Maidstone Hospital quite regularly."

Comfort

One of Elke's favourite things is to cuddle her three-year-old pet guinea pig Tinkerbell, and cats Scooby and Shaggy.

Glynnis said: "Elke can't talk, but when she sees Tinkerbell, she is able to make it known she wants her out and on her lap.

"She loves Tinkerbell and it brings her a lot of comfort. Tinkerbell herself often calls out to Elke, and we get her out. It is fascinating the connection the two have for each other.

"If you allow yourself to dwell on the situation, it will eat you up, and that can destroy you and your family. I have concentrated on what Elke has given me.

"Her smiles and her giggles and her cuddles are absolutely wonderful. We are coping because we have to – we have no choice, but we are doing well."

Elke's lawyer said the hospital failed to recognise quickly enough the risks of Elke's breach position in the womb, and that if she had been born 15 minutes earlier she would have made a full recovery.

The Trust said: "The Trust, after detailed and careful consideration with its legal advisors and a number of medical experts, identified a number of complex issues for both parties in this case.

"No admission of liability was made, but a compromise was reached which acknowledged the risks of both parties and an understanding of the needs and difficulties of the family."

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Youth support group 'will survive the cuts'

EXCLUSIVE

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

TIME is running out for the Connexions youth advice service, admits the chief executive of the charity's Kent branch.

Connexions offices up and down the country are feeling the full force of government spending cuts, with Kent currently going through a staff redundancy programme after taking a £4.8 million funding hit.

The service offers advice on education, careers, housing, money, health and relationships for 13-19 year olds.

But, despite his belief the brand will soon cease to exist on a national level, county chief executive Sean Kearns told KoS he is confident the charity has a future in Kent.

"I think government policy is changing and that the Connexions brand will go as a result," he said.

"But will Connexions Kent still be here? Yes we will, as a charity and social enterprise delivering support for young people.

"But we will have to go out and win new contracts with Kent County Council, with other local authorities, and with whoever is going to be commissioning the planned All Ages Careers Advisory Service.

"KCC has always valued its partnership with us and the contribution we have made, but with changing government policy and legislation we, like all organisations, will have to respond to those changes."

Last week the Association of School and



CHANGING ROLE: Chief executive Sean Kearns says Connexions will have to adapt

College Leaders (ASCL) warned that young people could be let down by the Coalition as existing Connexions services are cut before new provisions are in place.

The headteachers' union estimates that two million young people will be affected by the gap in services between now and April next year, when the All Ages Careers Advisory Service is due to be launched.

Yet, despite having little option but to agree to a 19.5 per cent funding reduction on its now £20 million two-year contract with

KCC, which starts next month, Mr Kearns said the situation for Connexions Kent could have been a lot worse.

He said: "We are a frontline service and the cut could have been less, but if you compare it with other branches across the country we've had a fair settlement. Others have been decimated and can't offer anywhere near the same level of service for young people.

"But then you can't take nearly £5m out of our budget over the next two years and expect it to not have an impact.

"We are going to lose frontline staff and advisers who do the day-to-day work."

Earlier this month it was revealed that 15.6 per cent of all 16- to 24-year-olds in the UK last December were classed as Neet – not in employment, education or training.

The 938,000 total was the highest final-quarter figure since 2005.

But Mr Kearns said this came as little surprise given the high rate of unemployment.

He said: "It's a fact that when employment demand reduces, supply increases, so employers are quite rightly more discerning of the skill level they are looking for.

"The barriers these young people face are the same as they were 12-18 months ago, but due to the economic situation they are now competing against others who have been out of the education system for two to three years and have had employment opportunities in the past.

"That's why organisations like Connexions are important in this difficult period, and part of the reason why we were formed back in 2001."

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Award for 999 operator who saved man's life

AN EMERGENCY operator who calmed a suicidal man who was harming himself as he spoke has received an award for public service.

Police call handler Sally Steadman was praised by the force for her actions in helping to locate the Sittingbourne resident, despite the distressing nature of the call, on March 30 last year.

She was among 35 emergency operators who received certificates from Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams at a ceremony last week.

"Police officers on the beat are often those who receive the plaudits, but we shouldn't forget the outstanding work that takes place within our control room," he said.

"Our call handlers are often placed under extreme pressure and their actions will often not only save lives, but help us catch criminals too.

"It was my pleasure to present these awards to a fantastic group of employees. This ceremony was about recognising and rewarding the contribution they make to policing in Kent."

Meanwhile, certificates were also presented to Supt Martin Very, Chief Insp David Pate and Insp John Betts for their work in setting up a centralised 'force resource unit'.

The unit manages spontaneous resource requirements and is based base in Aylesford.

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NICK AMES reports on a successful seven-month tour of duty training Afghan



HEAD START: Col John Klink, left, with Lt Col Adam Griffith. **INSET:** USMC Shanghai plaque

KENT-based soldiers and US Marines have been working together in Afghanistan for the last six months – more than 70 years after they first acted side by side in China.

The two units are working to improve the capability of the Afghan National Police.

Teams from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland, and 1st Marine Division of the US Marine Corps have been jointly responsible for the training in Helmand Province.

The Canterbury-based troops are in the final weeks of a seven-month deployment. The regimental museum, based in Stirling Castle and headed by Major Bob Elliot, researched the archives to establish whether there was any record of them working together previously.

Maj Elliot discovered the 2nd Bn Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the 4th Regiment US Marines had served together in Shanghai in 1932-33. The Argylls had been deployed to China to "protect the foreign area from internal disorder and external aggression".

Shanghai was split into defence sectors controlled by different countries. One was held by US Marines. The Argylls took over a sector close by.

A plaque was presented to the Argylls by the Marines at the end of their deployment in the 1930s. To acknowledge their modern-day work in Afghanistan, Lt Col Adam Griffiths presented each Marine with a Glengarry, the formal head-dress of the Scottish infantry soldier. In return, Col John Klink presented the Argylls with a divisional insignia and a USMC badge of rank.

Making friends,

INFANTRY soldiers from Kent have cleared insurgents out of an area of Helmand province in one of their final operations before returning home.

Four enemy were killed and two taken prisoner in the successful assault.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, based in Canterbury, worked alongside their partners from the 2nd Kandak Afghan Uniformed Police to conduct the 'advance to contact' – an operation to engage enemy fighters in an area known as Shindac Mandah, north of Patrol Base Attal in Lashkar Gah district.

Troops from Delta Company have been in Helmand since September, 2010, mentoring Afghan police officers who are increasingly taking over security responsibilities.

The soldiers return home in April. Their aim was to sweep away insurgents operating in the area and demonstrate to local people that the police and institutions of governance in Helmand are now in control and have complete freedom of movement.

These aims were achieved, with four insurgents killed plus two ringleaders in the community detained. A combined force of more than 100 men from the Argylls and the Afghan police headed towards an area known to be held by insurgents.

They moved north, stopping for cups of chai and discussing the forthcoming harvest and plans to open a new school. But then things began to change. Families were seen hurriedly leaving compounds and the fields were empty of workers. Before long the British soldiers and Afghan police were engaged from five separate firing points.

The insurgent attack was well organised and although the firing points were spread far apart, they engaged the Delta Company troops simultaneously.

The troops and police took up positions and returned an overwhelming weight of fire.

The British and Afghans realised this was no half-hearted attack and due to the number of enemy positions each one would have to be cleared in turn.

The men of Delta Company have been under fire many times in recent months and know the ground well.

Company commander Major Nick Wight-Boycott confirmed the location of all the firing points and was able to coordinate a plan to

suppress insurgent positions with artillery fire before sending in his troops. One by one, the positions were cleared. In the west, Lieutenant Luke McDonagh and his men ambushed two insurgents attempting to flee their position as the battle began to go Delta Company's way.

The insurgents fought hard but were cut down by Lt McDonagh's platoon. One died there, the other fell injured.

Lt McDonagh's men gave life-saving treatment to the injured insurgent before a helicopter was called to evacuate him to hospital in Camp Bastion.

He may have been saved, but once discharged from hospital he faces a life behind bars. The police captured an insurgent commander found hiding at the firing point nearby.

Meanwhile, in the centre of the village, Sergeant Frankie Kerr and his men were taking heavy fire from a position to their north. A combination of artillery and an air strike gave them the space to advance to the insurgent positions, covered by fire from Lt James Cook and his group of men.

As Sgt Kerr and his platoon cleared the positions, killing the insurgents, they were engaged once more by machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

An attack helicopter was called in which identified the position and stopped the incoming rounds by firing a Hell-fire missile.

Air support passed a message to Maj Wight-

Boycott that remaining insurgents could be seen recovering their dead to the north.

Delta Company pushed on, pressing home the advantage they had built and forcing the remaining insurgents to give up trying to recover bodies and flee the area.

Maj Wight-Boycott said: "The operation was a significant blow to the insurgency.

"The combination of such aggressive patrols targeting the insurgency directly, with increased development and support of the civilian population, has seen the insurgents' support base and ability to operate considerably eroded over recent months.

"For the men of Delta Company it was an excellent day. Counter-insurgency is hard work – partnering the police, protecting the people, fighting the insurgents, all with the constant, ever-present threat of IEDs weighing heavily on young soldiers' minds.

"Opportunities to go on the offensive and ruthlessly pursue the insurgents do not come around every day. When they do, morale is high for soldiers."



TOGETHER: Maj Nick Wight-Boycott with an Afghan National Police officer



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police which saw Kent-based troops renew an old partnership with US Marines

meeting the foe



ON THE ATTACK: Argylls during operational sweep. INSET: Lt Luke McDonagh talks tactics

RIGHT: Cpl Ian Crews of 5 Scots, with one of the Afghan police he mentors and who was involved in the operation to free a boy



EXPERT training from Canterbury-based soldiers enabled Afghan police to free a 13-year-old boy held hostage by two insurgent kidnappers.

He had been snatched nine months previously in the Nad-e Ali district, where he lived in the village of Shawal Kalay with his father, a civil servant in the district government.

The local Afghan police, who are mentored by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, launched an operation to arrest the kidnappers and free the boy after receiving intelligence from villagers.

The chief of police for Nad-e Ali, Lt Col Shadi Khan, who oversaw the operation, believes the kidnappers wished to extort and punish the boy's father because he worked for the government.

Captain Niall Archibald, of the Argylls, said: "The police action in freeing this kidnap victim demonstrates the high level of professionalism and capability they are reaching in Helmand. Critically, this operation was conducted completely unassisted by NATO troops.

"A key development of late has been increasingly to view insurgent activity as criminal acts rather than acts of war. Viewing them this way puts the emphasis on the Afghan police to take primacy in the counter-insurgency effort.

"As such, crime-scene exploitation, evidence handling and deeper understanding of powers of arrest and detention are now the focus of training for the police and they are making great progress."

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Phoebe, 16, hoping to sing her way to O2

By **NICK AMES**

nick.ames@kosmedia.co.uk

SINGER-songwriter Phoebe Warden has wowed the judging panel of a nationwide music competition and sailed through the



TOP TUNES: Singer Phoebe Warden

audition stage of Live and Unsigned.

The Stelling Minnis singer will now compete against the most talented bands and artists in the country at the regional final of Live and Unsigned 2011.

Live and Unsigned is the biggest original music competition in the UK for unsigned bands and artists and has attracted more than 50,000 entries in the past five years.

Phoebe, 16, said: "It's a really good standard and the next round is in Bedford on Saturday, April 2."

"To be honest I'm not sure how I'll get on, but I love performing live."

Phoebe has been singing for three years and wrote her first song last July. Now she is hoping for an appearance at the O2 as one of the competition finalists and a share of the £100,000 worth of prizes.

She has just finished recording an EP at Ten21 Studio in Bearsted.

"I listen to music which makes me want to write," the teenager said. "It might be older stuff like The Temptations or The Contours, and I really love The Beatles."

"More up to date, I like Kings of Leon and Kate Nash. They inspire me, but I don't try and write songs like them I have my own style."

"I write for my age group, but I



JUDGES: Phoebe Warden hopes to impress the likes of rapper Apache Indian and Noddy Holder

hope my songs have a wider appeal." Judges for the events around the UK include former Slade singer Noddy Holder, DJ Annie Nightingale, Mike Joyce formerly of The Smiths, and rapper Apache Indian.

Prizes include a management contract with Future Music, a World Tour taking in Australasia, Asia, America and Europe, a trip to Italy and a slot at a European music festival.

The winning act will also travel to India and will play in a global battle of the bands.

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PUPILS have been improving their reading skills – with the help of dogs.

Janice Kingman, headteacher of Brunswick House Primary School, Maidstone, is backing the Kent Schools' Reading To Dogs scheme, following the successful visits made by Peter Glover and his dog Talent.

This led to her own dog Grace being trained up and she now comes into school every Wednesday.

While reading aloud in a classroom can be a daunting experience for children, reading to dogs helps them to build confidence, as they won't feel that they're being judged, say organisers.

Mrs Kingman said: "The scheme has been incredibly successful, more successful than we ever thought it could have been.

"It has certainly boosted the self-esteem and reading skills of the children who have been involved. It is a very comfortable situation for the

children because the dog isn't going to be judgmental and we do as little intervening as possible.

"I know some people smile and say it's just a gimmick and so on. Sometimes gimmicks are the things that get to children who have been really hard to reach in their reading. I would thoroughly recommend it."

Anyone who would like to volunteer with their dog can call Peter Glover on 07932 113582 or email peter-glover@tiscali.co.uk.



WOOF: Sophie and Mitchell with dog Grace

Top police officer found hanged in his garage

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT'S former assistant chief constable has been found hanged, just as an investigation into alleged sexist comments made to female colleagues was coming to an end.

Some of the allegations are understood to have come from a civilian and junior officer from Kent.

David Ainsworth, known as 'The Brain' for his intelligence, moved from the Kent force to Wiltshire to take up the position of deputy chief constable on a reputed £110,000 a year.

The force said the investigation was headed by one of Britain's top female officers, Colette Paul, the deputy chief constable of South Wales.

Reports said it was connected with remarks he allegedly made to female workmates. One comment being looked at was "nice buttons" when he spotted a female officer in a tailored blouse.

Wiltshire police said Mr Ainsworth was found hanged at his home. His estranged wife Emma still lives in Coxheath and has not made any comment.

The 49-year-old officer was relieved of his duties last September while the inquiry was conducted. It is reported that officers were looking at a possible 24 incidents of inappropriate behaviour.

The body of the father of four was found inside his garage by a girlfriend, according to neighbours who heard a scream.

They said she'd yelled: "He's hanged himself, he's hanged himself."

Criminal charges were unlikely, but there was a possibility of a police disciplinary hearing, depending on the outcome of the investigation. An employment tribunal was also on the cards if any of the colleagues had wanted to take it further.

Another outside force is to now carry out another investigation to ensure the officer was given sufficient emotional support before apparently taking his own life.

Mr Ainsworth spent 22 years with the Kent force before moving to Wiltshire in 2008, when he split from his wife. At the time, their three daughters were teenagers and their son was 12.

After the allegations of inappropriate comments, he was moved to a temporary position with the Forensic Science Service in Birmingham.

Mr Ainsworth was living in the quiet village of Potterne near Devizes.

Wiltshire Police said: "We can confirm that Deputy Chief Constable David Ainsworth was found dead at his home.

"Our thoughts are very much with David's family and friends."

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Recreating face of murdered bishop

By **NICK AMES**

nick.ames@kosmedia.co.uk

A SCAN has been carried out on the mummified skull of a former Archbishop of Canterbury, who was beheaded during the Peasants' Revolt in 1381.

Images will now be used to create a facial likeness of Simon Theobald – Simon of Sudbury – who was also once Lord Chancellor of England.

He was killed outside the Tower of London and axe marks can be seen on his remains.

The skull is usually kept at St Gregory's Church in Sudbury, Suffolk, where it was taken after being mounted on a pole on London Bridge following his death.

Professor Caroline Wilkinson from Dundee University is overseeing the project.

She said: "I have dealt with ancient Egyptians, bodies preserved in bogs, and remains which need to be identified by the police."

"The unusual thing was seeing the head in the hole in the wall in the church."

"I was expecting the bone to be a little bit more fragile, because this has been in the wall of a church for 600 years, but actually the bone is very sturdy."

"It's a very interesting project and you can see, looking at the vertebrae which are attached, what looks to be a cut."

Horrific

"Written accounts of the Archbishop's death sound horrific. It is believed after the first blow he put his hand to the back of his neck and a second blow cut his fingers off. It does not seem that he died quickly."

Prof Wilkinson is an expert in forensic anthropology, and specialises in cranio-facial identification.

She was there when the skull was taken from its church perch to a nearby hospital in Bury St Edmunds, where the scan took place.

"The scan was necessary to identify what was the skull and what were parts of soft tissue still attached. It's called a CT scan, and is usually used on living people."

"A large number of X-rays are used to build up a picture of the skull so an accurate representation can be made."

"What that is completed, in this case a plastic model will be created – so we can



MURDER: The skull of Simon Theobald shows axe marks on the neck

all see what he looked like."

Jenny Seggar, curate at St Gregory's,

said Theobald was born into a prominent local family.

"He was brought up in the area, went to university in Cambridge and Paris, then he took various senior church jobs until he became Archbishop of Canterbury," she said.

The church hopes the facial reconstruction will be complete by the end of summer.

The peasants had a particular hatred for the Archbishop, and Kentish insurgents attacked and damaged his property at Canterbury and Lambeth, then, rushing into the Tower of London, they seized the Archbishop himself.

So unpopular was the cleric that guards allowed the rebels through the gates.

Theobald was dragged to Tower Hill and, on June 14, 1381, was beheaded. His body was buried in Canterbury Cathedral – minus the head.



RELIGIOUS ICON: From his base of Canterbury Cathedral, Simon Theobald was leader of the Church of England

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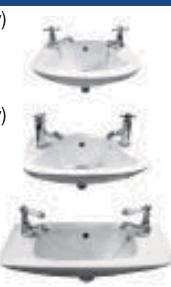
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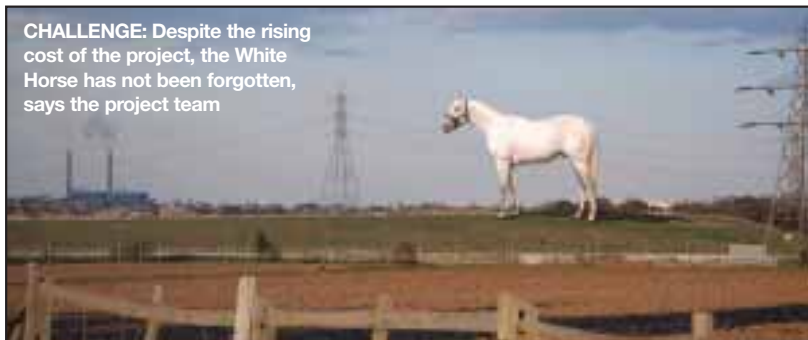


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CHALLENGE: Despite the rising cost of the project, the White Horse has not been forgotten, says the project team



'We're still going ahead with plan for White Horse'

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

AMBITIOUS plans to build a 50-metre horse sculpture in north Kent have not been put on hold, insists the team behind the development.

Few details have been released about the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project (ELP) since last July, when it was revealed the estimated cost of building the giant artwork had rocketed from £2 million to between £10m and £12m.

This is in stark contrast to the global wave of publicity that followed the unveiling of the horse – designed by Turner Prize-winning artist Mark Wallinger – as the winner of the ELP back in January, 2009.

And despite the economic collapse which followed, the team behind the development insists the sculpture will be built.

An ELP spokesman said: "The fundraising efforts continue, companies have been committing sponsorship and there have been some successes, but we're not there yet."

Challenges

"The programme has never stood still. Whenever you set about these things you need to overcome a series of challenges in the right order, and attracting funding is obviously one of them."

Mr Wallinger fought off tough competition from four other internationally-acclaimed artists to win the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project competition.

His horse will be 33 times larger than the Riviera Red racehorse on which he based the sculpture, and will look out over the new Ebbsfleet Valley development.

Part-funded by Eurostar, Land Securities and London and Continental Railways, the artwork was originally due to be completed in time for next year's London Olympics.

The ELP spokesman said: "You can't really go out to market to potential financiers until you can offer them the best level of certainty that you can."

"Each of the hurdles we have cleared – selecting the design, obtaining planning permission and so on – have added to that certainty, so we're still on course."

Meanwhile, there are also question marks over the future of a proposed 100ft Invicta horse statue on the hills between Dover and Folkestone.

Artist and sculptor Ian Morrison, from Wingham, came up with the idea after feeling disappointed that the Ebbsfleet project was of a horse on all four legs, as opposed to the "prancing" nature of Kent's Invicta symbol.

Mr Morrison declined to comment on the status of the plans, which have the backing of Kent County Council, but it is believed an announcement could be made within the next four to six weeks.

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BUSINESSMEN and women keen to make the most of opportunities presented by the Olympics have been invited to the Better Breakfast at Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham, on Thursday, March 31.

At the event from 7.30-9am there will be a lecture from Stephanie Holt on the Impact of the 2012 Olympics in Kent.

Ms Holt is Kent County Council's manager for the 2012 Games, responsible for coordinating a group of private and public sector partners. The aim is to identify the opportunities and maximise the legacy to Kent, from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. For more details and to book email Alison or Louise on conference-sales@priestfield.com or call 01634 300000.

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LETTERS

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Grammars of benefit to all

Your story headlined Grammar schools 'no benefit in getting working class children up the social ladder' (March 13) is incorrect both in tone and fact.

The study shows clearly that grammar schools are a benefit to children, regarding both income and social mobility prospects.

Indeed here is a quote from the report stating precisely that: "As far as absolute mobility chances are concerned, working-class origin pupils appear to reap a mobility advantage from attending grammar schools rather than comprehensives."

The report actually shows that working-class children are not more likely than children from other social groups to be socially mobile by attending a grammar. This is only to be expected – a grammar school should enable all children to access the full range of their abilities, so it is of benefit to all students.

The UK Independence Party fully supports our grammar schools in Kent and nationwide, unlike the other major parties.

Nigel Farage MEP, leader, UK Independence Party, Westerham

Respect for the Japanese

I do not think I have ever thought more of any people than the Japanese after their recent troubles.

Not only are they brave, they have shown so much support to their fellow countrymen and their community spirit has been faultless. So much misery for so many to face, but they have shown dignity. No-one has been found pilfering and stealing other's property.

If this had happened in our country, could we have guaranteed the same?

Carole Russell, Ramsgate

Principles give way to power

I was surprised to read the comments of my former Labour Party colleague, Rehman Chishti, about the visit of Ed Balls to MidKent College's Medway campus.

It wasn't so long ago that Mr Chishti would have been first in the queue to shake the hand of a Labour frontbencher, and doubtless be photographed doing so.

As to Mr Balls' visit being a "marketing ploy", it certainly was. It gave the hard-working catering and hospitality staff and students of MidKent College the chance to show off their skills and prove they can put on a prestige event.

The food and service were first-class and greatly appreciated by all. The college's Pavilion restaurant, which is open to the public at lunchtimes, and on Thursday evenings for fine dining, gives students an opportunity to expand their training and to work in a demanding and professional

OPINION: THE FUTURE IS NUCLEAR

Nuclear power must still be part of our future plans despite the tragedy in Japan, argues **DAMIAN COLLINS**, Conservative MP for Folkestone and Hythe

TODAY is my son Hugo's second birthday, and like any parent with young children I am concerned about the future and the world they will inherit.

We know that, with a growing world population, the industrialisation of the emerging economies of China, Russia, India and Brazil, and pressures to switch to low carbon sources of energy to combat climate change, we have some big challenges ahead. Over the last few weeks there has been one big story in the news that should give us cause for concern, about how we will ensure a secure supply of energy to keep the lights on in our economy, and that is not the earthquake in Japan, but the uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East.

The potential progress of those societies from dictatorship to democracy is incredibly important, and a reminder of the revolutions that swept away communism in Eastern Europe in 1989-90.

However, the situation there, particularly in countries like Saudi Arabia and Libya, has reminded us how instability in that region can affect the world. Any major disturbance in oil production could restrict supply, damaging economies and putting up prices.

Greater security in our energy sources, so that we are less reliant on imported oil from the Middle East, or gas from the former Soviet republics, as supplies from the North Sea start to run down, is therefore increasingly important.

Whilst renewable energy from the wind and the sea has a positive contribution to make, the technology that can deliver us a secure supply of low carbon power is nuclear energy.

Since my election I have been campaigning for the Government to include Dungeness on the list of recommended sites for a new nuclear power station, and understandably the earthquake in Japan and subsequent damage to the reactors at Fukushima has led people to ask whether we can still rely on this technology.

The earthquake in Japan was a very significant event, and in fact third greatest ever recorded. We can, of course, take some reassurance from the fact that Great Britain is a very low risk area for major earthquakes. We sit in the middle of one of the plates on the Earth's surface, whereas Japan is at the junction of four, which means that like California, it experiences the kind of very major earthquakes that we do not get here.

Despite the size of the earthquake and the tsunami it created, the reactors in Japan were not damaged directly by either, but by a fault that meant that there was not an adequate back-up supply of energy to keep the reactor's cooling systems running. We do not have any power stations built to this 1960s design in the UK.

Nuclear power in the UK has an excellent safety record and an important role to play in meeting our future energy needs – a point I made just over a week ago to the Prime Minister at Question Time in the House of Commons. He responded, agreeing that "I do think that nuclear power should be part of the mix in future, as it is part of the mix right now."

That does not of course mean that we should not look carefully at what has happened in Japan.

The Government has asked the chief nuclear inspector, Mike Weightman, to conduct a safety report on Britain's nuclear power stations. This is due to be published later in May and will also be considered by the Government when giving approval for new power stations to be built.

The Government also assesses the risks to nuclear power stations from earthquakes and severe weather from the sea, like a tsunami.

Dungeness passed these tests in its site report, so they would not be a barrier to a new power station being built here. In the case of Dungeness the flood defences and the safety operations needed to turn off and cool down the reactor if there were a major incident have been carefully planned and are constantly assessed.

For Dungeness these are based on the safety plans being successful against a one in 10,000-year flood event which would be typically associated with a tsunami wave.



environment. If Mr Chishti is so proud of Medway, perhaps he might have taken the opportunity to applaud the fact the Labour government, which only a few years ago he was so eager to join, invested £89 million to build MidKent College's Medway campus, in order to help with the regeneration of Medway and to provide first-class facilities for our young people.

Perhaps he might show the extent of his concern for the area in which he lives by asking his Government why they are stopping the Education Maintenance Allowance and increasing higher education fees to £9,000 per year, both measures which will make it harder for Medway's youngsters to obtain skills and qualifications.

He might also ask why they stopped the Building Schools for the Future programme. How long before we see a return to the conditions that my son, among thousands of others, endured in the days of the Thatcher government of the 1980s, when half of the portable 'temporary' classrooms at his school were out of action every time it rained?

Mr Chishti trots out his new

friends' tired old cliché about the country being on the "brink of bankruptcy" because of the last government.

Along with his principles, Mr Chishti seems to have forgotten that most of Europe, and the USA, were affected by the near-meltdown of the global banking and financial services system.

Britain is still a rich country and our level of debt as a proportion of GDP is perfectly manageable. What isn't manageable is the degree to which the ideologically-driven cuts in public expenditure will hurt the vulnerable, whose cause Mr Chishti so passionately espoused when he was a member of Labour.

Still, who cares about principles when you have a shot at power?

Harry Keane, Rainham

Making your vote count

There seems to be a great deal of confusion in the lead-up to the referendum on May 5 on how the alternative vote system works.

This is a stumbling block to moving on to the main discussion about why AV is an improvement on the first past the post (FPTP) system.

In AV, the voter gets the choice of as many preference votes as they wish – from choosing only one candidate on the ballot paper, all the way to ranking all of them, or anything in between.

The winning candidate under AV has to get 50 per cent of the vote, or more, to get elected. If, after counting first preference votes, the leading candidate does not get 50 per cent of votes cast, then the bottom candidate drops out, and their second preference votes are then counted.

If still no candidate gets 50 per cent of the votes, then the next bottom candidate drops out, and their third preference votes are redistributed.

This goes on until someone reaches the threshold of 50 per cent of the votes. This is an important 'fix' to FPTP, as it allows people to vote for minority parties, while still



Osborne's budget lacked enterprise

SIX months ago, county council leader Paul Carter warned the Government not to be taken in by the "myth" that Kent is an completely prosperous county.

He was concerned that because the South East is perceived by many as being universally wealthy, deprived areas such as those in Thanet and Medway would suffer from not getting as much help as similar areas in the North.

Judging by the new Enterprise Zone scheme announced in George Osborne's Budget this week, the Government has ignored Cllr Carter's words of wisdom.

Despite Pfizer's withdrawal from Kent being one of the biggest business stories of the year so far, its current site in Sandwich was not one of the 21 zones announced so far – almost all of which are in the North.

Given the publicity surrounding the exit of the pharmaceutical giant – which could lead to the loss of about 5,000 jobs – it is baffling as to why Sandwich has been left off the list.

One would be forgiven for thinking that with the infrastructure and first-class technology already in place, it would be the obvious choice for such an Enterprise Zone.

It seems that yet again the Government has taken one look at wealthy towns such as Tunbridge Wells and Canterbury and decided that the people of Kent do not need its help.

But unless it steps in and offers some financial assistance to revitalise Sandwich once Pfizer goes, it could have an economic disaster on its hands.

Star Taylor lapped up life on county estate

IT'S NICE to know that long before Elizabeth Taylor started out on her glittering movie career, she spent her summers on a country estate in Cranbrook.

So many stars have enjoyed the sights and sounds of Kent over the years, but they do not come any more famous than Hollywood's original glamour girl.

She will be sorely missed.

allowing them to transfer their vote to other parties.

FPTP discourages people in voting for minor parties, because anyone doing so, 'wastes' their vote. AV allows the voter the freedom of voting however they want, but having the knowledge that their vote will still be counted.

FPTP favours the two main parties, by allowing a candidate from those parties to continually get elected, often on fewer than a third of votes cast.

This creates safe seats, and means the only seats which matter are the few marginal ones around the country, which change hands from time to time.

As more people become disillusioned because their vote no longer counts, the more the FPTP system is going to break down, and throw up unrepresentative coalitions.

AV would not allow MPs from extremist parties, like the BNP, to gain seats, as they would be unlikely to be able to get wide enough support to achieve the 50 per cent threshold.

Michael Wright, Broadstairs



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

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BIRTHS

ALWAN

Jimmy, born on 28th February 2011, weighing 6lbs 11ozs. Son to Siad Alwan and Hannah Game in Dover.

HARRINGTON

Leeanne and Christopher are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Eliza May Harrington on 23rd February 2011 weighing 9lb 2oz.

JOHNSON

Charlotte and Mark Johnson celebrate the birth of their son Andrew Peter Harpur Johnson on the 7th March 2011, weighing 8lb 13oz.

MACKENZIE

Elizabeth May born on 8th March 2011, weighing 8lbs 12ozs. Daughter to Ian and Lisa Mackenzie in Margate.

MAHON

Jessica Rose Mahon was born on the 2nd March 2011 at 9:57am at Darent Valley Hospital and she weighed 7lb 3oz. Her proud parents Andrew and Karen are absolutely delighted with her safe arrival and are looking forward to introducing her to all their family and friends.

McGURK-BRIGNELL

Micaela and Tom of Broadstairs are

delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Charlotte Amelia McGurk-Brignell, born at QEOM Hospital on 15th February 2011, weighing 6lb 8oz. Our little nugget.

MIDMER

Emmie-Rose born to Steven and Charlotte on the 14th March 2011.

O'HARA

Melanie and Richard celebrate the birth of their daughter Daisy Mae OHara on 2nd March 2011.

O'MAHONEY

Kimberley James and Liam O'Mahoney would like to welcome their son Ryan Thomas O'Mahoney into the world, born on the 10th March 2011, weighing 6lb 9oz.

QUINN

Richard and Sam celebrate the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Lilly Grace Quinn, born on 7th March 2011, weighing 7lb 6oz.

ROSS

Penelope Ann Ross born on the 13th March 2011, weighing 6lb 15oz. Daughter to Steven and Hayley of Folkestone.

WILLIAMS

Arron and Donna are delighted to announce the birth of their

beautiful daughter Emily Christine Williams, who was born at 21:05pm on the 8th March 2011 and weighed 8lb 7oz.

DEATHS

CHURCH

Andy Church, accomplished sportsman and devoted father, sadly passed away on 11th March 2011. The funeral to be held at Christ Church, Echo Square, at 2pm on the 28th March 2011. Sadly missed by family and friends.

EDGLEY

Beryl Patricia of Kingsdown passed away peacefully on 17th March 2011 after a long illness. Enquiries to E. B. Cavell 01304 373275.

FITZPATRICK

Annie Fitzpatrick of Lydd, passed away on the 15th March 2011. Enquiries to Romney Marsh Funeral Services.

HUGHES

Margaret Hughes, formerly of Maidstone and Tenterden, died peacefully on 8th March 2011, aged 89 years. Much loved mother of John and Jennifer and Grandmother of Iain. Donations may be made to Kent Air Ambulance.

RATCLIFFE

Richard Hartington Ratcliffe died at home in his daughter's arms on Sunday 6th March at midnight. A loyal and doting husband, amazing father, exciting grandfather and wonderful friend. A huge loss to all who knew him, will be missed by all. Please contact Farriers Funeral Directors for information of the funeral arrangements.

STENT

Edgar William (George), suddenly at home on 6th March. Thanksgiving at St Peter and St Paul, 1st April, at 2.30pm

STRATTON

Ethel Lilian Stratton, died Saturday 12th March, aged 94. Funeral at Western-Super-Mare Crematorium, 1st April at 2pm. Please contact Sue Masters (Niece), 01934 842018.

WILLIAMS

Albert John Williams of Chilham passed away on 15th March 2011 at William Harvey Hospital, Ashford. A much loved dad, grandad and friend who will be deeply missed. The funeral will be held at Barham Crematorium on Wednesday 30th March at 12.40. All flowers welcome, or if desired, donations to Pilgrims Hospice Canterbury.

force in April and obliges energy companies to provide financial assistance to vulnerable people struggling to pay their energy bills. Despite strong public support for Macmillan's campaigns, the Government has rejected calls to automatically give people who are terminally ill the rebate and to prioritise cancer patients most at risk of fuel poverty in the scheme.

Macmillan estimates the cost of including people with a terminal illness in the scheme to be less than four per cent of the fund. Sadly, cancer patients who are vulnerable to fuel poverty look set to carry on missing out on much-needed financial help.

Put pressure on the Government to end the misery of thousands of cancer patients who turn off their heating because they're worried about energy bills.

You can show your support by joining the thousands who have already signed Macmillan's woolly scarf petition at www.infi-knit.org.uk

Annie Morgan, Tunbridge Wells

Making way for young generation

I would like to announce that I will not be standing for re-election at Birchington Parish Council come the election in May.

I feel the time has now come to give a younger generation the opportunity to serve the people of Birchington. I would like to thank everyone for the support that I have received since being elected, and I look forward to spending more time with my animal welfare work. I will miss working with my colleagues, especially councillors Margaret Sheldrick, John Worrow and Julie Francis, who have become dear friends.

Thank you, Birchington!

Cllr Jean Fleming,
Birchington Parish Council

Time to act on over-population

I rarely agree with Phil Granger, especially when he buttresses his arguments with Biblical quotations. However, his reference to over-population is spot on, even though I'm not convinced it is the cause of flooding.

Overpopulation, and a constant increase in that population, is probably the root cause of many of the problems besetting not only this country but also the world. We can't do much about the world, but we ought to be able to do something in our own country.

The human race is the only animal species not to fit its population to the resources available. The Earth has finite resources, yet our demands for food, water and energy supplies continue to increase. The system is not sustainable.

In the late 1970s, Fred Hoyle pointed out the imbalance between an exponential population growth and a depletion of cheap natural energy sources. The future he painted was bleak and he predicted that, unless populations stabilised and gradually reduced, there would be a collapse of our present civilisation within this century. Looking back over the last 30 years, I'd say the process was well under way.

Dave Stewart, Deal

New homes add to flood concerns

Phil Granger chooses to disagree with the scientific academies of the top 13 countries in the world, and our own Met Office, that global warming is added to by human activities. He is opposing the international scientific consensus on the subject.

Opinion, without acknowledging the

consensual scientific evidence, has no value.

He is, however, nearer to reality in making a link between over-population, tarmac and concrete covering our landscape and flooding. Kent is in the unusual position of having a population growth rate far higher than the national average.

The main reason for this, according to the County Council's draft Local Transport Plan, is people moving out of London into Kent.

Instead of meeting this demand by putting Kent and Medway's estimated 22,000 empty homes, 6,000 empty industrial buildings and countless long-term empty shopfronts into use, councils have generally supported building more houses. Worse, they have chosen to build on areas prone to flooding.

Global warming increases moisture in the atmosphere, through evaporation as a result of higher average temperatures. This makes more extreme weather events more frequent. The rapid rise in extreme weather events afflicting the UK and many other parts of the world is consistent with this process.

In short, more flooding in Kent can be expected to follow the severe floods we have seen over the last 15 years or so.

New homes, where actually needed, should be on brownfield sites where the risks of flooding are minimal. Of course, it would help if our Government had better policies on both global warming and fostering regional development in the areas of the country which need it most.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party

UKIP is the only real alternative

As local Tories retreat into introspection following their defeat in the Pembury by-election, one has to say that the decline in the Conservative vote was not surprising.

It was caused by the resignation of councillor Mike Tompsett, who resigned in protest at the way his fellow Conservative borough councillors had passed a vote of no confidence in their colleague (and the former leader of the Borough Council) Roy Bullock, after Bullock made a number of gaffes.

What was surprising, however, was that the percentage of electors who voted in the by-election was only slightly down on the low turnout one normally sees in an local government election, which shows that the electorate are angry and keen to express their opinion.

Following Tompsett's resignation, the Conservatives did not help themselves by selecting a 'Johnny Come-Lately' (aka Robert Rutherford) as their candidate, whilst the Lib Dems made a big thing about the fact that their candidate (Claire Brown) was the only candidate to actually live in Pembury.

On the doorstep, however, I detected a real and growing anger at the Coalition Government nationally, which was reflected by the turnout in the by-election and growing support for Ukip, as locally, Ukip is the only real opposition to the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats in local authority and parliamentary elections.

I do not wish to be over-optimistic about how Ukip's vote will hold up in the borough council elections on May 5 but, if Vic Webb's vote in the Pembury by-election is anything to go by, I believe the Tories have every reason to be scared of Ukip.

And before Conservatives accuse Ukip of splitting the vote and letting a centre-left pro-EU party in, may one add that it is now not only on the all-important issue of whether we remain in the EU or not, that one finds the similarities between the Conservative Party and Liberal Democrats are far greater than the differences between them... to the extent that any sensible voter who believes in minimal government now only has one party to vote for, ie Ukip, if one is to save our country and community from the abyss.

Christopher Luke, Tunbridge Wells

Join our march for the alternative

The effects of the Government's deep cuts in public spending are now being felt by communities across the UK.

Not only are hundreds of thousands of jobs being lost in both the public and private sectors, but vital public services – upon which some of the most vulnerable in our society depend – are being scaled down or disappearing altogether.

Price Waterhouse Coopers has calculated that 112,000 public sector jobs will be lost in the South East and that many tens of thousands more private sector jobs will be lost in the region by 2014-15 as a result of the Government's spending cuts.

Every community in the South East is now being confronted by the impact of the spending cuts, which will be felt most harshly by the vulnerable, such as children, the elderly and less well-off families. But it is inevitable that every person and every business will endure the detriment of these cuts.

Please believe me, trade unions are not 'deficit deniers'. We know that public finances must balance in the long-term and we want an economy that is successful for all. But it is the Government that is in denial about the importance of growth and the impact of its cuts on the economy. These cuts are unnecessary, unfair and positively dangerous.

In the last week unemployment in Britain has risen to its highest level for 17 years. Tragically, more than one in five 16-24 year-olds are now unemployed, and the OECD has again lowered its prediction for Britain's growth rate to a dismal 1.5 per cent for 2011.

That's why we're hoping that hundreds of residents from every community in the South East will join the tens of thousands of ordinary men, women and children converging on central London on Saturday, March 26, to take

part in the TUC's peaceful 'march for the alternative', against the cuts, and for jobs, growth and social justice for all.

Leaving the Victoria Embankment from midday, the marchers are heading to Hyde Park for an afternoon rally, which starts at 1.30pm – more details of which can be found at <http://marchforthealternative.org.uk/>

To find out more about transport to London, please see <http://falseeconomy.org.uk/themarch> to determine if there are coaches or trains leaving from where you live. And if you or your family is being affected by the cuts, and you'd like to tell the TUC your story, please email marchforthealternative@tuc.org.uk.

All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men and women to do nothing. Please do not sleepwalk into a less fair and nastier Britain. There is a better way. You have a voice. Please join us on the demonstration on March 26 and make your voice heard.

Megan Dobney, TUC regional secretary for the South East

Cancer patients denied vital help

The Government has turned its back on vulnerable cancer patients and the terminally ill.

The new Warm Home Discount scheme is supposed to help those most in need, but ignores the two thirds of cancer patients struggling to pay their bills.

People with cancer often have high energy bills due to spending long periods of time at home during treatment or recovery, and may feel the cold more because of their condition. Often these higher bills coincide with an average 50 per cent drop in household income, because many cancer patients are unable to work.

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Diamond geezer

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Conley's brotherly love



BY JOE BILL

Diamond geezer returns with show of hands for the 'Power of Neil'

IT is a long time since Dangerous Brian and Septic Peg featured in a prime-time slot on television, but comic entertainer Brian Conley is still a wanted man.

Stints in classic West End musical Hairspray and his starring role in a Neil Diamond-inspired musical created by Craig Revel-Horwood show he has the skills to sing, dance and make people laugh.

"The trouble is, when you aren't on television any more, people think you aren't doing anything. The truth is that there are a lot of famous people out there, but not a lot who can actually do anything," said the London-born performer.

Brother Love's Travelling Salvation Show features 49-year-old Conley as gospel-style preacher Brother Love, who asks people to follow the love and the power of Neil Diamond's music.

In a twist away from the usual musicals, the show, which also features Darren Day, will be performed in a tent in the grounds of Leeds Castle.

Conley said: "It's very tongue in cheek. Those evangelist sort of preachers in America used to go round in a huge tent and that's why they felt it would be quite fun. There is a strand of a story there, but more importantly it's a

concert and the people that are putting it on are a real rock'n'roll company.

"I think it's going to be kicking and we will engulf what I like to call this 'mobile arena' – but we all really know it's a tent."

Conley is best known for his popular sketch show in the 1990s, which featured infamous characters Dangerous Brian, Septic Peg and, after repeatedly hitting a toy squirrel, the catchphrase "It's a puppet!".

And this is something that stays with him to this day, as does the celebrity factor.

He said: "I still get that all the time, but I can't complain – it paid the mortgage and I embrace it all.

"I would love to be back on TV, but like I say it's a different era now, experience doesn't come into it any more, so I just do what I do.

"I can't ballroom-dance, I can't cook, I can't ice-skate and I hate the jungle, so I look at other options. I do things I want to do now and I am very lucky. The only shows I'm ever asked to do is reality shows and I've never felt the need to do it."

Fresh from his turn as Edna Turnblad in the West End musical Hairspray, Conley will be backed by a 15-piece band to guide the cast of the theatrical concert performance, convinced that the 'Power of Neil' can conquer all.

He said: "In the show, the other guys fall in and out of love with their girlfriends and I try to draw them back together – that's the rough premise, while fitting in as many Neil Diamond songs as possible."

"There is not too much dancing for me, because I can just see Craig there with his little paddle giving me a score of two."

In the wake of Neil Diamond's 50-year anniversary tour, the show will feature his greatest hits, including Sweet Caroline, Girl, You'll Be A Woman Soon and Love On The Rocks. And that is something that Dangerous Brian is really looking forward to.

He said: "I have always been a Neil Diamond fan. I don't think there are many people out there who haven't enjoyed some of the songs he has written.

"When we started talking about this tour and the fact it was with Craig Revel-Horwood, I was very excited because I am aware he always puts on the Strictly tour and everyone raves about that.

"The success he has just had with a great show, Chess, is amazing. He has really turned it around and brought it into the 21st century, so I thought this is going to be very special."

Named after Neil Diamond's fourth album, Brother Love's Travelling Salvation Show,

released in 1969, the show has tried to encapsulate the flamboyance and sense of fun associated with the pop star's live shows.

Between rehearsals, Conley continues to work and keep busy on the live circuits.

"It is all about 'live' for me. I've always done that, from the start," he said.

"I am doing the odd cruise at the moment and flying all over the place. I have another show coming up at the end of the year, but I can't talk too much about that at the moment.

"Hairspray was great, something new for me. I like doing different stuff. The difference with this show is that we are playing in a tent – and the difference for Hairspray was that I was playing a big fat woman."

And just as Septic Peg would have predicted all those years ago: "Bring your picnic, a glass of Champagne and you will have a good time.

"The best bit is that the audience can help us pack it away at the end of the night."

• **The show runs from Tuesday to Saturday, April 12-17, at Leeds Castle, near Maidstone. Tickets cost £21.50, £26 and £29.50. There is also the £35 VIP deal which offers the best seats in the house and complimentary drink and souvenir programme. For more information, visit www.brotherlovesshow.com**

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ATTRACTIONS



Quality food and excellent company

LAUGHTER and cuisine are combined at The Comedy Club on Thursday (March 31).

Hosted at the Ramada Hotel Dover, audiences can enjoy a two-course meal and three acts of comedy for just £20.95.

Fresh from his Edinburgh Comedy Festival debut, Ryan McDonnell combines clever wit and Irish charm. His 2010 appearance at the festival was hailed as "Apollo quality live comedy" by critics.

Richard Morton of BBC's The Stand Up Show and Jack Dee's Saturday Night will be the opening funny-man. Morton is a comedian, singer and songwriter and winner of the Time Out Comedy Award.

Award-winning Gerry K, above, heads the bill with his anecdotal, observational comedy. A regular performer around the UK and further afield, he has also appeared on FHM's Comedy Heroes on Channel 4.

The show is for over-18s only. Doors open at 7pm and the first act starts at 9pm.

Tickets cost £20.95 for the meal and comedy show. Comedy-only is priced at £12.95. Alternatively, you can make a night of it, with two sharing accommodation and two full English breakfasts for £106.90. To book, visit www.hahaheeh.com or phone 01304 872843.

Grow your green knowledge

KEEN gardeners are being encouraged to take a walk in the grounds of Godinton House near Ashford this spring.

The bulbs are now flowering, meaning a spectacular display will be on offer in the three-acre wild garden. There is a mass of daffodils, making a stunning display, including old varieties naturalised over decades (emperor, empress and golden spur).

These are followed swiftly by anemones, chionodoxa, fritillaries and primroses.

The gardens are open every afternoon between 2pm and 5.30pm.

Season tickets are available for visitors to enjoy Godinton House around the year.

Visit www.godinton-house-gardens.co.uk for more information about prices.



Hillbilly style is electrifying

A BAND described as the hillbilly Pink Floyd will be bringing their unique sound to The Gulbenkian in Canterbury.

Gandalf Murphy And The Slambovian Circus Of Dreams also throw elements of Tom Petty, Neil Diamond and Frank Zappa into the mix.

Known for their electrifying live performances and a down-to-earth connection to audiences, the American group deliver a quirky, versatile and good-humoured show that works as well in small clubs as it does on large festival stages. Over the years they have built a large and loyal following.

The four-piece use a diverse range of instruments aside from guitars and drums, including glockenspiel, theremin, mandolin and accordion to produce music ranging from Americana ballads to cinematic anthems.

The group also run their own label, High Noon Records, and have just released their latest album The Grand Slambovians.

They will be at The Gulbenkian on Thursday, April 14. Tickets are £14 or £12.

To book, phone 01227 769075 or visit www.thegulbenkian.co.uk.

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Sun 27th March at 2.30pm

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SHOWS

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Pertencia
Thurs 24th March
7:30 pm

www.theatreroyalwargate.com

Celebrate music of the world



THE superb Equator World Music Festival starts this month.

The series of concerts takes place in Ashford, Folkestone and Maidstone throughout the spring and summer.

Artists lined up for the festival include flamenco legend Juan Martin and Middle Eastern jazz star Attab Haddad.

One of the first concerts will be by Portuguese guitar-master Custodio Castelo, pictured. He will be playing with his band at the Norton

Knatchbull School in Ashford on Friday, April 1.

Custodio Castelo, in his trio, performs intricate and moving Mediterranean rhythms packed full of emotion and combined with a dynamic mix of tempos in a mesmerising display.

The show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £8, concessions £5, students £3 and children go free.

For more information on forthcoming events for the Equator World Music Festival and to book tickets, visit www.equatorfestival.com.

Come along to hear a country-music legend

COUNTRY and folk musician Charlie Landsborough will play a concert in Folkestone as part of his 2011 nationwide tour.

Landsborough has played sell-out UK and Irish tours annually since 1995 and has performed at distinguished venues including the London Palladium, the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and the Belfast Opera House.

Although he has found fame all over the UK, and indeed as far afield as Australia, he first came to light in Ireland with his live performance of What Colour Is The Wind on Pat Kenny's popular chat show.

Since then, Landsborough has won best songwriter, best male

vocalist and best album at the British Country Music Awards and has also received a nomination as best global country artist at the Country Music Association Awards in Nashville.

Audiences can expect a fusion of anecdotes and songs in which the poignant simplicity of Landsborough's music is combined with his personal and expressive lyrics and supported by his five-piece band.

Landsborough will appear at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone on Thursday, April 7, at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £14.50 to £21. To book, phone the Leas Cliff Hall box office on 0844 847 1776.



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Pottery and porcelain tell the story of family

THE collection of European and Oriental pottery and porcelain at the Powell-Cotton Museum at Quex House in Thanet has been reorganised in time for the spring opening on Friday, April 1.

Archivist Hazel Basford, part of the team behind the revamp, said: "The new displays will not only tell people about items in the collections, but also about ceramic production and how the pieces were brought together at Quex."

The Quex estate and its inhabitants played a vital role in the political, agricultural and maritime history of the Isle of Thanet in the past. The present Quex House is about 200 years old, but

a house has stood in the grounds since the 15th century.

The museum was started by Percy Powell-Cotton after he encountered diverse cultures during his round-the-world trip in 1889. This helped develop his passion for the arts alongside his lifelong commitment to anthropology and natural history.

The museum and gardens are open on Tuesday to Sunday from 11am-5pm, with the house open on the same days from 2pm-5pm.

Tickets are £7, concessions £4, or £20 for a family (two adults and three children). Phone 01843 842168 or email enquiries@quexmuseum.org for details.

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A day to

THIS year's Mothering Sunday falls in April, rather than its usual place in March, as it is set by the date of Easter – which is late this year.

Traditionally, it is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent, but its origins come from well before Christian festivals were celebrated.

The dates of Easter vary and can be any time between March 22 and April 25 – the days are calculated by the phases of the moon following the Spring, or Vernal, Equinox, which is usually reckoned to be March 21.

Mother's Day is believed to have emerged from a custom of mother worship in ancient Greece, which kept a festival to Cybele, a great mother of Greek gods.

This festival was held at the Vernal Equinox in the Middle East and eventually in Rome from the Ides of March from March 15-18.

The ancient Romans also had another holiday, Matronalia, which was dedicated to the goddess Juno, and mothers were usually given gifts on this day.

In Europe there were several long-standing traditions where a specific Sunday was set aside to honour motherhood.

Mothering Sunday celebrations are part of the liturgical calendar in several Christian denominations, including Anglicans, and in the Catholic calendar it is marked as Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent to honour the Virgin Mary and one's own mother – as well as in the past the 'mother church'.

Children and young people who were in service – servants in richer households – were given a day off on that date so they could visit their families.

The children would pick wild flowers along the way to place them in the church or to give them to their mothers

The United States celebrates Mother's Day from a different perspective and it is always the second Sunday in May.

One of the early calls to celebrate Mother's Day in America was the Mother's Day Proclamation by Julia Ward Howe. Written in 1870, it was a pacifist reaction to the carnage of the American Civil War.

In some countries, Mother's Day is held on significant religious dates, like the Virgin Mary Day in Catholic countries, or the birthday of the daughter of the prophet Muhammad in Islamic countries.

Other countries changed it to historical dates – for example, Bolivia uses the date of a battle in which women participated.

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THE tradition of Mother's Day gifts in England gifts dates back to about 1600.

The children would go to church and then head straight to meet their own mother with some fresh flowers.

While the boys would present their mother with the flowers, girls would go a step further by presenting them with freshly-baked cakes, which were also called Simnel Cakes.

The custom of Mother's Day stopped during the industrial revolution but bounced back after the Second World War as greetings cards rose in popularity.

Now it is one of the busiest celebrations of the year for card-stockists.

Roses, carnations and chrysanthemums qualify as the most popular flowers on Mother's Day in Britain.

Less frequently, nowadays, children follow the tradition of making a rich almond cake for their mother on Mother's Day which is often called Mothering Cake.

Current treats for Mother's Day include children providing breakfast in bed or cooking the Sunday lunch.

Dining out as a family is always popular as a celebration, and the time of the year is

one which sees many tables booked well in advance.

Increasingly, in place of real flowers, virtual bouquets are sent over the internet by sons and daughters living in places far from the family home.

TREATS: Flowers and gifts have become a traditional way to celebrate Mother's Day across the world



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In the rich tapestry of life, no one asks where you got married, but they all want to know where you went on honeymoon.

With a January wedding, we wanted sun, sea, silver sand and a shimmering of stardust to prolong our loved-up wedding high.

Having flicked through several glossy travel magazines, we couldn't resist the allure of the Indian Ocean and the emerald isle of Mauritius. Not the built-up northern part, where the coastline is dominated by large, commercial five-star hotels, but the untouched southern tip, with five miles of unspoilt beaches, rolling surf and lush vegetation, framed by a wedge of mountains which look like something out of cult TV show *Lost*.

Privacy and romance were key, and we found both in the relaxed ambience of Shanti Maurice – a luxury lifestyle spa resort. A little bit Indian, a little bit African, this super-chic hideaway nestles between a horseshoe-shaped coral sand cove and 36 acres of tropical gardens, coconut palms and parcels of sugar cane.

At our airy, colonial-style pool villa, with room enough to dance, we enjoyed a panoramic vista of turquoise sea, two sun-lounging decks, a private infinity pool, raised dining

By **SAM WYLIE-HARRIS**

pavilion with billowing muslin, not to mention a sunken bathtub with inset flat-screen TV and an outdoor rain shower – where nothing came between us and the elements but the exotic birds dining on banana trees.

Weddings are exhausting, so we needed to reawaken our senses on the first night. After watching a magnificent sunset from the hotel's elegant Red Ginger Terrace, we dined under a canopy of stars in Pebbles – a pretty courtyard restaurant which overlooks an infinity pool.

With a menu inspired by the spices of India, we enjoyed juicy giant prawns and a bottle of South African house wine, and reminisced about the best day of our lives. Serenaded by a live band, we relived some of those precious moments before heading home in one of the hotel's chauffeur-driven golf buggies.

Treatments

The warm air was sweet with scented flowers, and a lovely surprise lay in waiting on our return – a rose-petal bath had been drawn, with candles and tealights flickering in the mirror, and rose petals strewn across the bathroom floor. How did housekeeping know what time we'd be back?

Shanti Maurice boasts one of the finest spas in the Indian Ocean (no under-18s) and we overindulged in the Nira Spa with its Ayurveda treatments: fresh seawater Watsu pool (very therapeutic, apparently), 'quiet' pool and yoga pavilion, where I experienced 60 minutes of Hatha Yoga – otherwise known as a lazy Thai massage!

The slow breathing and stretching induces emotional calmness, something this bride could have done with pre-wedding.

But best of all was the Intonga Amasatchi in the Kama Suite – the Holy Grail of spa treatments. For 90 minutes we lay side by side while wooden massage sticks were lightly drummed, nurturing our stressed bodies back to wellness.

Finally, after stress-relieving head massages, we were led to an enchanting pagoda where herbal cuppas were not on the menu. Honeymooners are treated to a half-bottle of



MY WORD! Newly-weds will find the Shanti Maurice the perfect place to relax after their big day. Above, the Stars restaurant and pool

Veuve Clicquot while they relax and admire the flower gardens, watching Koi carp swim beneath.

Surrounded by stone floors, contemporary furnishings and high ceilings, the hotel lobby feels like a floating palace with impressive water features, lily-ponds and hibiscus.

This is a resort where style-seekers wear the holiday wardrobe they've always dreamed of and honeymooners are assured of a glamorous backdrop to the second half of their wedding album.

We spent lazy, hazy days on the beach gazing out to sea, shaded under a coconut palm umbrella. Or for a change of vista, we took 30 paces back and plunged into the vast infinity pool, with its labyrinth of inviting channels and cosy corners under water fountains.

In the bar at the heart of the hotel, a Coco Loco rum-based cocktail with our friendly barman became *de rigueur* at the start of the evening, followed by a table in Stars. The hotel's signature restaurant has seating inside and out, with ocean-front tables and South African Cape-inspired food.

But for holidaymakers thirsty for a slice of island life, the Fish and Rhum Shack dinner on the beach is the bee's knees. Pitched against an old shipwreck, canopied day-beds and picnic-style tables, a huge bonfire and torches light up the magnificent seafood buffet and barbecue.

Guests gorge on fresh lobster, shrimp, steak,

chicken and salad, while a troupe of colourful Mauritian dancers in traditional costume sing and dance to the sound of beating drums. The circus doesn't take place every night, but it's definitely worth booking when it's on the menu.

Mauritius is an island of plenty, and for active types there's something on offer from dawn to dusk.

For early risers, the hotel offers the 'beauty of Mauritian sea life' with a dolphin-watching excursion at 6am and packed breakfast.

Nature-lovers can also see the mystical sights of this volcanic island on a half-day excursion to the sacred lake of Grand Bassin, witness magical viewpoints from Black River Gorges National Park and marvel at the tumbling waterfalls and coloured sands of Chamarel.

Markets

Fashionistas not content with the resort's gift shop (pricey but worth it) can head to the small city of Mahebourg, where vibrant, open-air markets spill over with spices, fabrics and souvenirs; and there's plenty to explore in the picturesque capital of Port Louis, famed for its Champ de Mars racecourse, where punters can have a flutter on some of the world's finest thoroughbreds – from March to December.

But for my husband (my new favourite word!), the nearby Golf du Chateau was a hole in one. Designed by Peter Matkovich and rated the best golf resort on the island (Mauritius has 12 in total), this magnificent 18-hole championship course is as well groomed as the golfers who frequent it.

Set against sweeping hills, players practise their swing among lakes, streams and tropical trees and escape the midday sun in an impressive, plantation-style clubhouse.

All in all, couples can be as busy or quiet as their hearts desire. Looking back, one of my most treasured memories was our pre-booked 'romantic, unique dining experience' on the beach, when we ate alone at a candlelit table surrounded by torchlights, the distant sound of retreating waves and the beautiful sight of quartz-like rock pools, with the moon shining down on us.

Travel facts

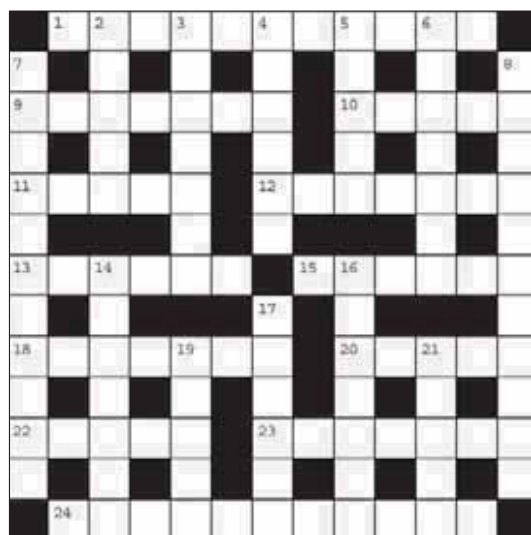
- Sam Wylie-Harris was a guest of Shanti Maurice and Luxury Holidays Direct, which offers seven nights' half-board in an Ocean View Junior Suite from £1,479, including Air Mauritius return flights and private transfers, for travel May 1-Sept 30. Connecting return flights ex-Manchester/Glasgow from around £100.

- Luxury Holidays Direct reservations: 020 8774 7297, or go online to www.luxuryholidaysdirect.com.

waterstone's

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Waterstone's in Tunbridge Wells will present a £10 book token for the correct entry of the cryptic crossword picked at random. Send your completed grids to KoS, Prize Crossword, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SS. Closing date is Wednesday, March 30, 2011



CROSSWORD No 432

Name.....

Address

.....

.....

.....

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

1. Amusing tennis-player? (5,6)
9. Nothing in the sailing ship is architecturally flamboyant (7)
10. Turkish potentate elected a second time (5)
11. It's exorbitant - shouldn't be paid yet (5)
12. The product of a biblical man of letters (7)
13. Moral justice to which actors pay allegiance (6)
15. Synopsis that's not quite exact (6)
18. Apprehensive of this kind of system (7)
20. Discourage some of the worldwide terrorism (5)
22. Folk literature about one French flower (5)
23. Fruit from the mountains near the end of the Orinoco (7)
24. Leave with the fellows by backstreet for French regions (11)

SCRIBBLE HERE

Down

2. The sort of craft propelled by manpower (5)
3. A plea that could end up in Queer St.? (7)
4. Butler with a novel reputation (6)
5. North African horseman causing a ship-wreck (5)
6. One discovered in the castle ruins likely to get a stretch (7)
7. This causes no acute problem in geometry (6,5)
8. Fail to emphasise what those suffering tension are (5,6)
14. Elevate with universal commendation (7)
16. Communist to record a symbol of bureaucracy (3,4)
17. One who accompanies the colonel among the rest, maybe (6)
19. Literally the last of the Greek characters (5)
21. Needing to relax, having imbibed too freely (5)

QUICK CLUES

Across

1. Drunkenness (11)
9. Hazy (7)
10. Harden (5)
11. Sluggish (5)
12. Malady (7)
13. Guarantee (6)
15. Reckless (6)
18. Axle (7)
20. Factory (5)
22. Fire-arm (5)
23. Stipulation (7)
24. Rude (3-8)

Down

2. Illustrious (5)
3. Support (7)
4. Encroachment (6)
5. Whirl (5)
6. Luxurious (7)
7. Celebration (11)
8. Goal (11)
14. Deft (7)
16. Endorse (7)
17. Arm (6)
19. Vision (5)
21. Nimble (5)

CRYPTIC SOLUTIONS 431: Across: 1 Ball-game; 5 Lump; 9 Beef; 10 Anathema; 11 Bight; 12 Hoofers; 13 Self-confessed; 18 Naturalist; 19 Work; 20 Inertia; 21 Light; 22 List; 23 Reviling; Down: 2 Adeline; 3 Lift-off; 4 Many hands make; 6 Useless; 7 Praised; 8 Stroke; 13 Sundial; 14 Litters; 15 Curate; 16 Saw-mill; 17 Parthen; 18 Wanton; 19 Spindle; 20 Plant; 22 Rifle; 23 Provisor; 24 Ill-mannered. Down: 2 Noble; 3 Bolster; 4 Inroad; 5 Twirl; 6 Opulent; 7 Anniversary; 8 Destination; 14 Skilful; 16 Approve; 17 Weapon; 19 Dream; 21 Agile.

• The winner of last week's crossword, no 431, is Mrs G Ferrier of Marden

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- Sicily - Messina
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IN MY VIEW



By Nick Ames

Turbulent tale is a page-turner

JERUSALEM: THE BIOGRAPHY
BY SIMON SEBAG MONTEFOIRE

TRAVELLING light is something on which I really pride myself – lugging luggage around is not my idea of a good, or even OK, time.

When off somewhere, I'll always take a number of books but usually make sure they are of the paperback variety.

But with a trip to Israel and the Palestinian Territories – including a visit to the holy city a few hours away – I decided that this heavy-weight, in all senses of the word, work was a must-pack.

The writer takes in the history of the place from its early days as a fortified village before the almost unending line of conquerors and occupiers, among them the Assyrians, Babylonians, Ottomans, British and Israelis.

And while reading it within the confines of the Old City and its ramparts, over a Palestinian Taybeh beer, close to the Jaffa Gate, it just seemed astonishing that so much blood had been spilt over so small an area.

Montefiore emphasises the fact that Jerusalem has always been 'the holy city' and is venerated by three of the world's great religions, Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

But he points out that "it has always been a den of superstition, charlatanry and bigotry".

A bloody tale is recounted, with a truly epic story of wars, looting, rape, massacre and torture seeming to vie with one another as to which form of atrocity appears most.

Before recounting the earliest tales of the city, Montefiore begins with its sacking and the destruction of the Second Temple of Solomon by Roman legions commanded by Titus, a future emperor. After this triumph, 500 Jews a day were crucified until the invaders ran out of wood with which to build crosses.

The story goes on through the banning of Jews by Christians, the Islamic takeover, the short-lived Crusader occupation and the efforts of British Prime Minister David Lloyd George to ensure the city formed part of the British mandate after the First World War.

This was given up some 20 years later amid violent clashes between just about everyone who lived there and the first Arab-Israeli war promptly erupted.

Martyrs and prophets abound throughout the book, so that the last days of Jesus are not as strongly featured as I had expected.

However, something that is tackled in detail is a phenomenon I had never heard of.

Montefiore writes: "A hundred patients a year are committed to the city's asylum suffering from the Jerusalem syndrome, a madness of anticipation, disappointment and delusion."

After reading this I paused to set out on another walk and arrived outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which marks the site of Jesus's crucifixion.

And here was possibly the ultimate for any would-be messiah – the chance to rent a cross and carry it in the final earthly footsteps of Jesus along the Via Dolorosa, or Way of Grief.

CINEMA

LIMITLESS (15)

THE drugs do work in Neil Burger's visually arresting morality tale, set on the bustling streets of modern-day New York.

However, narcotic nirvana comes at a price. According to popular myth, humans only use 10-20 per cent of their total brainpower – startling statistics without any grounding in documented scientific fact.

Imagine the huge leaps and bounds that could be achieved in science and the arts if we could somehow energise those supposedly dormant synapses.

The answers to the universe's great mysteries could be resolved in the blink of an eye.

Alan Glynn's debut novel, *The Dark Fields*, invented a fictitious wonderdrug that could do just that – reboot the brain – and imagined the repercussions for an avaricious modern society.

Screenwriter Leslie Dixon adapts the book to the big screen as an (im)morality tale about a struggling writer who has the whole world in his hands and selfishly squanders this remarkable gift to indulge in the excesses of 21st-century life.

Eddie Morra (Bradley Cooper) has been wrestling with writer's block for weeks and now his girlfriend Lindy (Abbie Cornish) has finally given up on him.

At his lowest ebb, Eddie meets his former brother-in-law, Vernon (Johnny Whitworth), who furnishes the struggling writer with a wonder pill called NZT, which reportedly increases brain activity and unleashes untapped creativity.

Eddie swallows the clear pill and the next morning discovers he has furiously churned out the first 40 pages of his magnum opus.

As Eddie becomes addicted to the medication, he metamorphoses from hopeless bum into a suave, ultra-confident and charming man about town, winning back Lindy and earning the respect of powerful Wall Street mogul, Carl Van Loon (Robert De Niro).

However, Eddie's supply of pills is finite and if he is to continue his meteoric rise, he must acquire a new stash.

Limitless is stylishly crafted by director Burger, who employs some nifty visual trickery to replicate the hallucinogenic side-effects of NZT as it opens Eddie's mind to a world of thrilling possibilities.

Nobody likes a know-all and, sure enough, Cooper struggles to win our sympathy for his drug-assisted hero, who can talk his way to success by recalling facts from the darkest recesses of his memory.

There's a certain amount of *schadenfreude* on our part when he must suffer for abusing his powers.

Cornish looks gorgeous in an undernourished supporting role, while De Niro barely has enough time on screen to get beneath the skin of his influential money-man.

A hastily-contrived coda, set 12 months later, attempts to tie up some of the loose narrative threads, but there would have been a pleasing symmetry if Eddie's life had been left in disarray.

THE EAGLE (12A)

A BRAVE and noble son atones for the sins of his father in Kevin Macdonald's swords-and-togas epic, based on the novel *The Eagle Of The Ninth* by Rosemary Sutcliff.

Set in the wilds of 140AD England and Scotland but partly filmed in Hungary, *The Eagle* pits the might of the Roman Empire against the barbarism of the indigenous tribes, who slit the throats of their badly-behaved children.

Channing Tatum strides manfully into the breach as the emotionally and physically scarred hero of the hour, coping well with the rigours of Jeremy Brock's screenplay.

A skirmish between the legionnaires and the heathens at the beginning of the film, the latter charging into the fray on chariots with blades affixed to wheels, is thrillingly captured by cinematographer Anthony Dod Mantle and editor Justine Wright.

Blood and mud spatter the camera lens as swords clash and sinews ripple, at least one



(IM)MORALITY TALE: Bradley Cooper is Limitless

soldier losing a limb as those horse-drawn carriages scythe through Roman defences.

Underpinning the barbarism is the unlikely friendship between master and slave, whose distrust must be put to one side as they venture north of Hadrian's Wall in search of a military trophy.

In 120AD, the entire Ninth Legion disappears without trace in Scotland and its standard, a golden eagle, is lost forever, to the eternal shame of Rome.

The commander of those soldiers also vanishes and, 20 years later, his son, Marcus Aquila (Tatum), accepts a posting in Roman-occupied southern Britain to learn the truth about his father's demise.

The young soldier is badly injured protecting his men and he recuperates with the help of his uncle (Donald Sutherland) and slave boy Esca (Jamie Bell), whom Aquila saves from certain death in the gladiators' ring.

Once he has regained his strength and mobility, Aquila heads north in search of answers, accompanied by Esca, a member of the tribe of savages responsible for slaying the Ninth.

The Eagle hinges on the rapport between the leads, and Tatum is impressive, bringing a brooding physicality and emotional vulnerability to his role.

Bell pales by comparison but gets his moment to shine in a touching scene when Esca defies the orders of Aquila and refuses to leave the badly-wounded Roman to his untimely fate.

With Tatum and Sutherland cast as Romans, British co-stars must adopt unconvincing American accents for the sake of continuity. Mark Strong comes off worst as one of the long-lost members of the Ninth who charges into battle to protect Aquila in his hour of need.

Thankfully, his swordplay is more polished.

FASTER (15)

WHEN the going gets tough, the tough get into a modified 1971 Chevrolet Chevelle SS and gun the engine.

So it seems from George Tillman Jr's turbo-charged revenge-thriller about an ex-con on a five-day suicide mission to avenge his murdered brother.

Driver (Dwayne Johnson) is released from prison and immediately seeks out a fast car and enough firepower to take down the rival gang responsible for killing his brother and leaving him for dead after a bank heist.

"He's got a metal plate in the back of his head holding his face together. This guy refused to die!" growls the eccentric cop (Billy Bob Thornton), who intends to stop Driver before he completes his bloodthirsty mission.

Faster burns rubber for most of the 98 minutes as Driver zips back and forth across America, slaying the bad guys and staying one baby step ahead of his pursuers.

For the most part, Tillman Jr's film puts the pedal to the metal and leaves coherent plot and characterisation in a cloud of exhaust fumes, and us choking on the implausibilities.

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FOOD AND DRINK

RESTAURANT REVIEW

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

THERE was a time when going into an Indian restaurant on a Friday night meant sharing your meal with the raucous group sat next to you washing down their chicken tikka masalas with yet another pint of Kingfisher.

Those places, thankfully, still exist, but there is a growing number of venues aimed at the slightly more sophisticated diner – definitely the clientele that Apeksha in Canterbury has in mind. A relative newcomer to the city's culinary map, it is already making a name for itself.

It certainly has high hopes for your evening, with its website boasting proudly: "Welcome to a journey through the exotic cuisine from the rich heritage of the Indian subcontinent."

Before you begin your 'journey' the first thing to notice is the excellent job done on the interior, which skilfully marries swanky contemporary leanings with the historic building. The refurbishment has been done sympathetically, with the low ceilings and uneven walls contributing to the ambience – although do be careful not to bump your head on the way upstairs.

After the obligatory papadoms (75p each) and relish tray (£1.50), we opted to start with the filling mixed platter for two (£7.50). For that you get chicken tikka, seekh kebabs, onion bhajis and something called rajma ke galwati, a fried cake made of, among other things, kidney beans.

Aware I can be spectacularly unoriginal when it comes to selecting my main courses in Indian restaurants, I was determined for this exercise to branch out a little.

With that in mind, I went for kerala duck roast (£10.95). If I'm honest, my usually consis-

Currying favour with a more classy clientele

tent choices mean I rarely spend long perusing the menu, but I had never seen a duck curry before. I would definitely have it again.

The meat was wonderfully tender and marinated in kerala-style spices, including, I think, star anise, which worked well. It was cooked with potatoes, which in hindsight made at least one of the accompanying chilli naan (£2.50) and lemon rice (£2.95) I was sharing redundant.

In the spirit of the 'journey', my partner also left the well-trodden path for something more unusual, settling on a Goan-style seafood mix called samudari khazana (£13.95).

It included prawns, crab meat and squid rings, which, from the approving noises and lack of conversation from the other side of the table, appeared to be as delicious as the duck.

It was all complemented by a very pleasant bottle of chianti (£18.50).

Fortunately the service was unobtrusive, even when the busy restaurant began to quieten towards the end of the night. It gave us time to at least attempt to make room for dessert, but even with the inviting menu it would have been a step too far. Instead we finished with a cappuccino (£2.85) and Indian masala tea (£2.50), taking our grand total before service to £64.80.

With that, our civilised culinary journey came to an end, all without a rowdy customer in sight.

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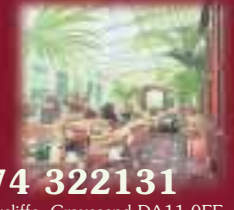
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Women Seeking

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ATTRACTIVE confident, African lady, 37, independent, HIV Positive, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363415

FUN outgoing lady seeks spontaneous male, 37-60, adventurous, professional, attractive. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363331

48YR old Asian female, average build, good looking, likes most things, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363321

JANE 27, caring, bubbly, likes nights out, cinema, bowling, dvds, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363203

BEAUTIFUL slim Malaysian female, 24, seeks retired soldier gent to spoil and pamper for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363135

FEMALE seeks kind, caring white male, 42-50, tidy and clean for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363197

41YR old busty blonde, seeking discreet male for uncomplicated mutual friendship with benefits! Any age. Call me you have nothing to lose. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363301

VERY single, flirty fully figured, confident, sophisticated attractive student, 19, seeking fun times in or out with outgoing confident male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363299

BORED lonely housewife 39, busty attractive, leggy, blonde, WLTm male for daytime meets. Can accommodate. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363295

VERY attractive slim blonde, social, loves travelling, can be direct, WLTm tall mature male who can accommodate for 1-2-1 meets. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363271

HONESTY is the best policy, so let's be straight, attractive blonde 29yrs seeks older male for fun, friendship/meets. Status/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363269

ATTRACTIVE caring blue eyed blonde, 40, enjoys intimate nights in, looking for some good company, looks/age unimportant. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363267

EVERYDAY life getting boring? Lady seeking discreet male for fun times only. Ask no questions, I will tell no lies. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359161

NEW to the area and seeking male companionship. Attractive singleton 32, fit, caring, anxiously awaits your call. Can travel/accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358133

35YR old flirty social female looking to share fun times, romance and love with special male also looking for adult companionship. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358131

VERY young 40's female looking for younger man to care for, share special intimate fun times together. Can travel/accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358129

BEAUTIFUL slim brunette, will try anything once, varied interests, seeks laid back male for friendship, good conversations and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353679

JOYCE attractive 40's feminine lady loves good times in/out looking for likeminded younger male for fun times. Can accommodate/travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362859

MALE Guardian reader? Arty, vivacious female, 61, happy in own skin, seeks N/S sociable, warm, loving man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360655

SLIM attractive, elegant Asian female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, Asian male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571

NAUGHTY but extremely nice 27yr old curvy, sensual, feminine female, seeking similar minded male for lots of fun. Any age/Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361383

6FT blonde leggy ex lingerie model 33, looking for good times with free thinking mad Single dad welcome/Any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361381

ATTRACTIVE vibrant mid 60's female, independent, likes music, travel, socialising, seeks cultured, energetic, cultured male. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364766

35YR old outgoing discreet female looking for someone who WLTm up for fun adult dates. Can accommodate. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361757

FLIRTY 30, very attractive confident slim brunette, looking for fun times with broadminded male. Single dad welcome. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361755

VOLUPTUOUS attractive tanned, well groomed blonde 39, looking for good times, pampering, massages and discreet friendship. ACA. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361751

GORGEOUS looking lonely lass 28, OHAC, no lies, looking for some romantic liaisons with older male ACA/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361731

Hi I am Sandy, an attractive 38yr old nurse looking for some off duty passion with affectionate open-minded man. Any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361729

LADY slim, brunette, N/S, likes music, London/Trust, theatre, dvds, seeks sincere, honest gent, 48-60 for friendship, maybe more, Kent/Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360633

SINGLE female, 60, sincere, caring, likes most things, seeks male, 60-65, N/S with GSOH for companionship and LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360557

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364852

YOUNG 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669

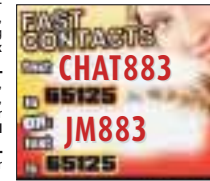
SALLY petite, confident lady, happy go lucky, likes dancing, walks, tv, seeks male/soul mate for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362665

PROFESSIONAL brunette, green eyes, petite, solvent, OHAC, looking for good adult companionship with likeminded male. Any/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362951

ATTRACTIVE slim well educated spontaneous blonde, 36, fed up with being alone WLTm keen tactile man who is up for a challenge. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362887

NEW to area, happy female with no ties and easy to please, looking for genuine manly man for friendship, dates and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362885

28YR old slim blonde female, varied interests, looking for uncomplicated friendship with open minded man. Status/looks/Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362865



BLONDE blue eyed single female, 34, discreet, OHAC, looking for fun friendship with confident man, 38-60 wanting fun times also. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362863

WARM well educated 60's female, seeks similar gent to enjoy the simple things of life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360477

BETH young minded widow, 65, 5ft 5ins, happy, size 14, N/S, many interests, seeks sincere, honest gent for friendship who might admit to some aching bones. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344291

SAM 37, attractive, size 16, friendly, bubbly, seeks sincere, genuine male, 35-50. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384334

52YR old female, likes walks, animals, theatre, cinema, seeks male for companionship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357291

LATE 20's female seeking older male. Call to hear exactly what I'm like and looking for. I can meet anywhere in London at any time Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356995

TALL slim brunette, just 21yrs seeks interesting older male who knows what what I'm like and the way of the world. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356969

SOUTH London Lady, full figure with long hair, curves in all the right places. WLTm male of any age for fun, friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356989

FUN loving student, 21yrs, seeks male of any age for fun in London, can travel and accommodate, I love a risk and having fun Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356981

FOREIGN beauty, long, long hair, 20's yrs, seeks older male who can spoil someone like me. London area. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356967

FEMININE lady who knows how to treat her man seeks strong minded male to care for, any area London/Surrey/Kent Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356985

SEALED with a kiss. 37yr old single curvy, blonde hair, blue eyes, curvy, likes sunshine, travel, looking for Knight in shining armour, to make me laugh and spoil me. Folkestone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355543

LADY 44, GSOH, short, curvy, dark hair, seeks good guy for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355391

DEBBIE mid 50's, attractive, likes music, cinema, theatre, seeks male for companionship. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351419

57YR old voluptuous lady, works, divorced, likes beach, meals out, theatre, travel, weekends away, seeks white male, 56-61 with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359685

ATTRACTIVE lady, seeks kind, solvent male for romance and possibly love. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360159

ISABELLE lovely lady, genuine, honest, loving, caring, 68, N/S, non drinker, slightly disabled, WLTm male for love, companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347305

KATHY long blonde hair, blue eyes, 60, likes mowtown music, nights in/out, seeks gent. 47-62. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361797

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. Heathrow. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701

SALLY independent, intelligent, confident, caring female, seeking a similar soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361575

MANDY early 40's, slightly alternative, looking for similar open minded male for fun nights in/out. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361727

YOUNG 40's lady who loves cooking and enjoying good wine, WLTm older male for cosy nights in and great company. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359163

HONEST caring, genuine female, 44, GSOH, likes meals out, nights in, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381844

MARY 62, 5ft 3ins, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes nights in/out, seeks honest male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359467

FAYE N/S, non drinker, lots of love to give, seeks special, genuine, honest male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349309

Men Seeking

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TALL handsome British gent, 39, seeks lady 20-35 to spice up life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363373

IRRESISTIBLE Knight! Stylish male, 5ft 8ins, likes music, film, art, seeks shapely fair maiden, 28-38 for enjoyable times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363209

FIT good looking dark haired male, seeks slim, white, attractive female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363487

DANNY 41, attractive, likes cooking, music, walks, conversation, seeks slim, attractive, honest, faithful female to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363413

STEVEN 50, likes nights in, 5ft 3ins, 8st, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362779

DAVID 61, proud of it, fanciable, poetic, likes participation, disciplined, adventurous. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357791

DAVID 61, likes sports, reading, writing, seeks female. Bushy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362779

GENT 62, assertive, many interests, seeks curvy, non assertive lady for exciting relationship that offers something different. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362977

PETER 62, varied interests, no lies, reliable, understanding, romantic, seeks cuddly female, 50-67. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362943

RIO 55, ex airline pilot, seeks female for friendship, relationship, outings and socialising. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362825

GEORGE seeks white female, 40-60 for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384872

PATRICIA outgoing, confident, feminine, warm, friendly, smart, good company, attractive, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347215

FUN loving country girl, 48, seeks male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364488

FEMALE seeks N/S, clean, tidy white male, 42-50 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361049

CRYSTAL 5ft 6ins, long dark hair, hazel eyes, olive skin, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383374

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easy-going, likes a laugh, looking for love. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359059

ATTRACTIVE caring, interesting black lady, seeks educated, genuine, white male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358937

ELEGANT professional, black, lady, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes dancing, meals out, cinema, reading, seeks intelligent, professional guy for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353840

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334613

DOROTHY 70's, 5ft, fair hair, likes coast, Chinese food, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342451

JENNY 5ft 4ins, black hair, green eyes, size 12-14, likes cinema, nights out, dancing, gardening, walks, holidays, seeks tall, slim male, 40's for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339065

MIDDLE aged male, 57, 5ft 9ins, likes football, gardening, seeks female, 55 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362091

IS anyone out there? Desperately seeking someone near Folkestone who is casual but smart, who has a nice heart and is pleasant company. I have a picture request it I'm quite good looking. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358069

MALE 5ft 5ins, young 60's, dark hair, caring, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim-medium build, attractive soul mate for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362039

JOHN 42, 6ft, well built, seeks female for winning, dining and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787

TALL dark, professional male, seeks similar female, 32-44 for friendship, nights out and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384668

PAUL likes meals out, walks, seeks young female for relationship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361607

RICHARD 46, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, loving, caring, likes theatre, holidays, country walks, meals out, cinema, music, cooking, seeks female, 37-57 for loving LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361555

ATTRACTIVE fun loving, sexy, adventurous, 6ft, London born black man, seeks loving, caring, adventurous, faithful, white lady, 40-60. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362999

MALE 47, easygoing, GSOH, looking for fun times and laughs with mature female. Rochester. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362971

ATTRACTIVE blond, blue eyed male, 47, HIV positive, genuine, sincere, GSOH, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, Oriental/black/Asian female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362931

SINGLE professional, good looking Indian male, 5ft 7ins, vegetarian, 51, young looks, seeks younger white female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362927

RICHARD 46, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, likes holidays, cooking, theatre, country walks, meals out, cinema, music, seeks female, 39-57 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362925

MALE 52, seeks attractive, fun, outgoing female, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384770

MALE seeks female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384890

LEE tactile, handsome, seeks female, 38-60 for fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361501

TALL slim, fit, well dressed gent, late 70's, seeks slim, elegant lady for dining out and companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361463

ANDREW 5ft 10ins, easygoing, spontaneous, adventurous, seeks female for fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361445

FUN loving professional male, 42, independent, likes good things, seeks female for LTR. Don't mind animals/children. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384750

MIDDLE aged male, 57, 5ft 9ins, likes football, gardening, seeks female, 55 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362091

IS anyone out there? Desperately seeking someone near Folkestone who is casual but smart, who has a nice heart and is pleasant company. I have a picture request it I'm quite good looking. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358069

MALE 5ft 5ins, young 60's, dark hair, caring, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim-medium build, attractive soul mate for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362039

JOHN 42, 6ft, divorced, no lies, brown hair, blue eyes, likes cooking, camping, holidays, seeks female, 30-45 with similar interests for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361999

JOHN 52, 5ft 2ins, medium build, shaven head, blue eyes, seeks female of similar age with GSOH for fun times. St Helens. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362445

MALE 41, seeks slim, attractive, faithful, honest, dark female who likes cooking, walks, music, films etc for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362315

DECENT looking male, 38, likes pubs, music, restaurants, nights in/out, seeks female, 20-40 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361771

MATURE Caribbean gent, seeks articulate female who likes music, dance and London lifestyle. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362491

VALENTINES card this year, no, neither, say hi and maybe you will get a late one, Paul 42. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362481

NICK 46, slim, genuine, seeks female, 36-56 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362447

RECENT widow 60, 5ft 9ins, medium build, N/S, seeks slim, attractive female to share the nice things in life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362291

MALE 52, seeks attractive, fun, outgoing female, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384770

ASHFORD lady sought by genuine, loyal male, likes music for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362249

WILLIAM young 65, fit, active, N/S, non drinker, seeks Christian female who enjoys the simple things in life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350833

KEV 47, 6ft 1ins, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks attractive, loving, loyal female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358761

HEDONISTIC curvy, vivacious female sought by successful, tall, young 51yr old guy to pamper and spoil. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384264

ANDREW attractive, tanned, young 48, N/S, ex BA crew 747/Concorde, fitness training instructor, mountain medic, GSOH, widowed, no kids/baggage, seeks anyone anywhere, genuine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360965

61YR old male, loving, caring, likes motorsports, seeks female, 60-63 for meals out, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360919

MICHAEL 68, retired historian, fit, active, intelligent, kind, seeks woman with lively mind and warm heart for LTR. North Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361349

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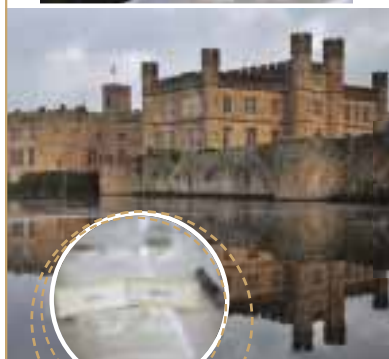
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IN A RUT: Low mortgage lending has led to a shortage in properties to let, meaning that tenants are forced to pay higher rents for their homes

Rents go up as lenders continue to be cautious

By **NICK AMES**

MORTGAGE lending across the country remained at low levels in February as the housing market continued to be slow, according to analysts.

One expert from the Council of Mortgage Lenders said the market was "stuck in a rut". Gross mortgage lending during the month was £9.5 billion, almost identical to January's low level, according to the latest figures.

The CML said that 2011 would be a challenging year for the housing market.

And in a separate investigation into current trends, it has been disclosed that a shortage of homes has caused rents to rise for tenants. They rose by 0.2 per cent in February to £684 a month, following a dip in the cost to tenants in January, according to the research from LSL Property Services.

The CML said that lending remained weak, partly because banks were restricted, but also because there was concern about new borrowing among people who were worried

about their jobs and the state of the economy.

However, total lending was marginally higher than the same month a year ago, when activity in the market was also slow.

Bob Pannell, the CML's chief economist, said the picture was unlikely to change during the year ahead.

"Nothing alters our underlying view that this is going to be a challenging year for households and the housing market," he said. "The housing market remains stuck in a rut."

The normal pick-up in house purchases after the New Year break was weaker than a year ago, the CML said, although sales to cash-buyers had remained steady.

The figures suggest a shift from mortgage borrowing for new-house purchases to remortgaging – an indication that some people were locking into new fixed-rate deals ahead of an anticipated rise in interest rates later in the year.

Tough economic conditions have also had

an effect on the rental market in February, the LSL survey indicated.

With the mortgage market even more sluggish since the start of 2011, this backlog of frustrated buyers has increased even further and rents have risen correspondingly.

The trend of a rising number of tenants falling behind with their rental payments continued. The survey found that 12.6 per cent of all UK rents were in arrears, compared with 11 per cent in January.

"The fierce competition among renters in many areas of the country has cut short the traditional lull we tend to see between December and February," said David Newnes, managing director of LSL Property Services, owner of Your Move and Reeds Rains.

"The consistently constrained level of lending to home-buyers has bolstered demand – and rents – in the private-rental sector during what is typically a slower period.

"With the mortgage market even more sluggish since the start of 2011, this backlog of frustrated buyers has increased even further and rents have risen correspondingly."



homes24 is the smart place to find properties

THERE has been a fantastic lift for anyone involved in the property industry with the news that Archant, the UK's largest independently-owned regional-media business, has relaunched its property channel homes24.co.uk.

The new-look homes24.co.uk, which is now powered by the leading property search and information business, Zoopla, includes many unique search and research features.

These range from free, instant valuations for every UK home and a property community AskMe! Q&A as well as the ability to set a TemptMe price on your home or make a TemptMe offer on a home.

With almost half a million UK listings for sale and to rent, as well as tools to help consumers connect better with local agents, homes24.co.uk will start to be promoted heavily in all Archant local papers and magazines and help to drive even more enquiries and vendors for local agents.

The new website and promotion by Archant will be a clear win for agents and developers who advertise on homes24.co.uk.

Archant publishes more than 60 local and regional newspapers including leading daily titles such as the Eastern Daily Press and weekly titles like the Ham & High, 80 regional magazine titles including Cotswold Life and Devon Life, as well as an online portfolio of more than 200 websites, making it one of the top community-media publishers in the UK.

Martin Cunningham, commercial director at Homes24.co.uk, said: "We are delighted to have partnered with Zoopla, who have delivered us an innovative and market-leading online property-search product.

"We will be making a significant investment in the promotion of homes24.co.uk to maximise the benefit gained from each of our media assets."

Alex Chesterman, founder and chief executive of Zoopla.co.uk, said: "This deal is a natural fit, combining the ability of a traditional publisher to drive traffic using their strong media assets to a market-leading online platform provided by us. The partnership leverages each of our core competencies to benefit both consumers of Archant media and members of the Zoopla platform."

• See www.homes24.co.uk for more information about the new channel.

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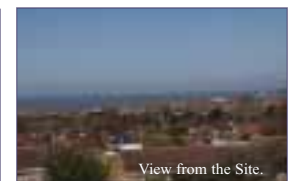
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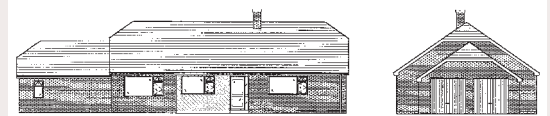
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Emergency crews' road test course

A COURSE designed to provide firefighters with the skills needed to drive fire engines in emergencies has been accredited by the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM).

The 10-day Emergency Fire Appliance Driver (EFAD) course is delivered at Kent Fire and Rescue Service's driving school in Maidstone.

To get the qualification, firefighters need to complete a written theory test and practical assessments on a variety of roads and traffic conditions.

Driving school manager Jim Wilton said: "When many people think of the fire and rescue service, they often think of fire engines rushing to the scene of an accident on blue lights.

"And while these vehicles are the most widely used by firefighters, what many people do not realise is that their construction, shape, power and weight distributions are mechanisms that create unique limitations for drivers.

"Emergency fire service drivers carry a great deal of responsibility – such as ensuring their fellow colleagues and other road users' safety – so it's crucial that we have staff expertly trained."

Normally firefighters who complete the EFAD course would have to then take the IAM advanced driving test.

However, because the Kent version is to such a high standard, IAM assessors have deemed those passing exempt from the process.

Mr Wilton said: "Our qualified drivers demonstrate that they possess the first-class mental and physical decision-making and observation skills needed to ensure complete control of their vehicle at all times.

"In highly stress-filled situations, they will predict, identify and respond to potential hazards that could impact on the health and safety of our staff and other road-users, while being conscious of arriving as quickly as possible to the scene of an incident."

EXPERT ACCESS: Uwe Derksen (second right) with the Edge team



Sharpening your act with a creative Edge

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE University for the Creative Arts has launched a new service offering businesses across Kent and beyond access to its facilities and experts.

Entitled 'Edge', the scheme has already worked with Kent County Council's 2012 Olympics campaign as well as with the clothing manufacturer Funzee and even the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation.

The experts based at UCA – which has campuses in Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester – offer consultancy and bespoke in-house training to businesses, as well as access to their technical facilities.

"We have a huge pool of highly qualified and very talented people at UCA who have a great deal to offer outside of our campuses," said Uwe Derksen, assistant director of research and enterprise.

"Their expertise reaches across a wide variety of creative sectors while the technical facilities we offer match or exceed the current industry standard, so we really believe

we can give our clients the edge they are looking for, no matter what they require.

"Edge also offers the university another source of income, which is particularly important at the moment with the huge cuts to education funding that we are facing over the coming months."

Last week, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, which sets university grants, revealed that UCA's budget will be cut by about nine per cent this year.

The Edge project, which is the brainchild of the university's research and enterprise department, offers creative expertise and services in a wide range of in-demand industry sectors.

These include 3D digital design, architecture, film, media, marketing, fashion design, fine art, product design and more.

UCA has collaborated with businesses in the past but consultancy inquiries have increased rapidly in recent months, leading to the formation of Edge and the compilation of a staff database.

Funzee, which manufactures all-in-one nightwear for adults, is one of the companies to have benefited from the service thus far.

Owner Mark Heselgrave said: "Edge

helped me with a sizing issue that was stalling the company's growth – too many of the suits we produce were being returned.

"The consultant helped me make my sizing more scientific, which has led to fewer returns, an increase in profits and, of course, more happy customers."

Edge's website features a unique experts' directory which allows visitors to read about each consultant's previous experience and subject areas. It also contains the full list of services Edge offers, as well as case studies from recent projects. Log on to www.ucaedge.com for more information.

Alternatively, email edge@ucreative.ac.uk or call 01622 620162.

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CONSTRUCTION students from across the county have been competing to find the region's best trainee bricklayers, carpenters, painters and joiners.

Students from MidKent College, K College, North West Kent College, Thanet College and Canterbury College battled it out in individual heats of the SkilledUp contest, with the winners facing off at the grand final later this year.

MidKent College principal Stephen Grix said: "Standards improve each year during the competition heats.

"The quality of the work produced last year was very high, yet these students have managed to top even that."

The winners of each heat were presented with a range of prizes donated by the

power tool manufacturer and competition sponsor, Makita UK. Regional representative David Chillingworth said: "We're great supporters of this competition.

"These students are the future of the industry, the competition gives them something to aim for and we're pleased to help them on their way."

K College's head of construction, Mike Stanley, said he was impressed with the energy, enthusiasm and skill demonstrated by his students.

He added: "All the students have taken on the challenge and gone for it and the results speak for themselves.

"It shows how everyone is capable of going the distance. You just need to keep going and never give up."



WELL DONE: Jack Fulker, left, is congratulated by Mark Stockdale of the Department for Education. With them is Wonders of the Universe presenter Professor Brian Cox

Jack's universal appeal

TV SCIENTIST Professor Brian Cox was on hand to congratulate the Kent-based winner of a national competition.

The Wonders of the Universe presenter was one of the judges of the National Science and Engineering Competition, and presented the 'highly commended' award in the junior science and maths category to Canterbury schoolboy Jack Fulker.

Archbishop's School pupil Jack was recognised for his liquefaction project, which explored which materials were best for

reclaiming land in areas badly affected by earthquakes. Prof Cox, who was also a member of the 1990s pop group D:Ream, said: "The standard of entries was outstanding and the judging process proved much harder than expected.

"The judges were truly overwhelmed by all the finalists' projects and it's wonderful to witness such enthusiasm and dedication from young people such as Jack. It's left me hugely excited about the future of science and engineering in the UK."

Masterful retail workshops

STUDENTS from across the county took part in a series of retail master classes at Bluewater shopping centre.

The workshops, which covered subjects including merchandising and marketing, were organised by Kent County Council in partnership with Bluewater and North West Kent College.

About 200 pupils from schools in Dartford, Gravesham, Canterbury and Swale took part. Cabinet member for education, learn-

ing and skills, Cllr Sarah Hohler, said: "KCC is proud of its pioneering vocational training. These courses help young people get a feel for different sectors of industry and help them make an informed choice in pursuing further qualifications.

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BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Apprenticeship Week 7-11 February 2011



Summary of events in Thanet:

Monday 7th February

- Launch of Training Solutions Facebook site
- College Apprenticeship Graduation event



Tuesday 8th February

- Thanet College recruits 'The Apprentice'

Wednesday 9th February

- Principal Graham Razey - live interview on Academy FM at 11.15am
- Drop-in session about Apprenticeships - College Library 12 midday until 5.00pm

Thursday 10th February

- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at Westwood Cross 10am-1pm

Friday 11th February

- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at Westwood Cross 10am-1pm
- Thanet College hosting the Coastal College Consortium for the 'Employer Engagement Task Group'

Saturday 12th February

- Apprenticeship Bus will be at Westwood Cross from 8.30am-6.00pm
- Launch of a range of new Thanet College Apprenticeship programmes



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HANDYMAN

We require a handyman to join our team at The Bridge, Tunbridge Wells, a new development of 2 bedroom apartments.

The successful candidate will be able to work alone or as part of a team. Duties will include light/medium maintenance, cleaning responsibilities and assisting the sales team with daily tasks. Immediate start essential.

Please telephone
0800 883 8170
for more information.

Fairview
NEW HOMES Ltd.
www.fairview.co.uk



COUNTY SECRETARY

(Chief Executive Officer)
(£30,851 – £ 35,430)

The Kent Association of Local Councils is recruiting a County Secretary from June 2011, to secure the administration, management and funding for the Association. You will head a small team whose role is to provide quality legal and technical advice, high standard training, the dissemination of new information and the maintenance of regular communication between our office in Folkestone and our almost 300 member Parish and Town Councils. Ideally you will be an enthusiastic professional person, preferably with a background in, or understanding of, Local Government. You will need to have excellent administration and management skills. You will also need good inter-personal and general communication skills, have experience of servicing and leading meetings and be a confident public speaker.

You will need to be flexible and there will be some evening and weekend work.

Closing date: 4th April 2011

For application form and job description
contact **01303 248252** or email
kalc@btconnect.com



Ashford International Hotel is currently looking for two experienced managers to join our team

Deputy General Manager

£28,000 to £33,000 per annum dependant on experience

As Operations Manager you'll be reporting directly to the General Manager and be taking the reins when they're not around. You'll be responsible for the daily operation of your hotel with a specific focus on food and beverage, conferences and events. Ultimately, it's about growing and developing the operational areas of our business to ensure we achieve our profit targets, so you will also be involved in development of the hotel business strategy and budget, as well as assisting with the forecast on a weekly basis. And because we don't believe in strict corporate guidelines, you'll have freedom to make your own decisions and think up new and creative ways to get results. Previous Hotel Experience is essential for this role

Front of House Manager

£19,000 to £21,000 per annum dependant on experience

As Reception Manager you'll lead, inspire and motivate the Reception team to handle check in and check out to give a great first and last impression making sure that our guests have everything they need to be comfortable and enjoy their stay. Our Reception team thrives on pressure and are nothing if not flexible, welcoming and, quite frankly, amazing at all times! We also know that each and every one of our guests wants to be made to feel special, so no lengthy standards checklists for us! You'll just use your instinct to build a great rapport and deliver our distinctively memorable one of a kind service.

Contact information

If you are interested in applying for this position, please forward your CV and covering letter to **Jemma Wilkins**, HR Manager at jwilkins@qhotels.co.uk or apply online at www.qhotels.co.uk

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RESIDENTIAL HOME FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

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SUPPORT WORKERS

for permanent and bank positions

- Shift pattern
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Tel: 01634 250592 or forward CV to
Clearwatercare 77 Main Road, Hoo, ME3 9AA



STORES PERSON

Required by a local Sevenoaks Company
for a variety of duties including the control
of a Small Stores Warehouse, some
assembly/fabrication work.

The individual will need to be flexible and
organised.

This is a full-time position, to apply please
telephone 01732 743901

MONTAGU COURT CLIFTONVILLE

Requires

Senior Carer. Must have NVQ 2 or above.

Also Day & Night Flexi Carers

Call Alan or Jill on 01843 220090

SHAMPOOIST/ RECEPTIONIST

16 Hours per week.

Must be flexible with hours

Contact Tracy Hildrew on: 01732 750999
or email tracy@thildrew.orangehome.co.uk
or tracy.hildrew@btconnect.com

SUB-CONTRACT ELECTRICIAN

Required for around three days per week.
17th Edition preferred. Must have own
tools and transport. Varied work.
Rates by experience and negotiation.

E-mail details to heronelectrical@hotmail.co.uk
or phone Alan on 07926 068108

GEORGE HOTEL, CRANBROOK CHEF DE PARTIE

We are looking to strengthen the team by
employing a new Chef de Partie. View the
George at www.thegeorgehotelkent.co.uk

Applicants must have relevant experience in
a busy pub, hotel or restaurant producing
quality meals from local fresh produce.

The position is full-time over 5 days assisting
in the starters and desserts section and also
preparing breakfasts. The salary is
negotiable based on experience and is on a
live-out basis.

Please E-mail your CV and covering letter to
georgehotel@shepherd-neame.co.uk or ring
The Manager on 01580 713348.

Full Time Dental Nurse required in Whitstable

Experience preferred, but training provided for the
right candidate.

Knowledge of computers preferred.

For further information, contact: 07540 691677
or send CV to aycliffe@gmail.com

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Require

Enthusiastic fund raisers/instore promotion people/collectors

To work at venues in the Kent area

Full/part-time including weekends.

Start £6.50 p.h. plus bonus. Must drive.

Please call Sue: 07809 714252

WELLNESS COACHES REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition company
looking for serious people who want to earn
£500-£1000+ per month full/part-time
working from home.

Full training and support available.
01622 671716

Lourdes Community Care Home Nursing require

Registered Nurse

for Night Duty
and Flexi Hours

Reply to 01843 833242

Co-ordinator

Thanet Kidz Klub

Salary c £20,000 pa + Accommodation + Pension

TKK in partnership with Church Army are seeking to appoint an exceptionally gifted Christian
person to plan, organise and deliver a term time Kidz Klub for the area. Included will be
responsibility for administration, the budget, fund raising and volunteers.

Additionally the Co-ordinator will have responsibility for developing the work across the
churches of Thanet.

Based in The Marlowe Innovation Centre in Ramsgate the Saturday morning Kidz Klub takes
place in the adjacent Marlowe Academy along with evening home visiting during the week.

If you are experienced in working with children of primary school age and feel you can
take this one year old ecumenical project forward please send your CV with covering
letter to:

Mrs G. E. Trumble, Thanet Kidz Klub, The Marlowe Innovation Centre,
Stirling Way, Ramsgate CT12 6NA.

This position is subject to an Enhanced CRB.

Closing date for receipt of applications 20th April. Interviews 28th April.

TKK is in the process of applying for independent charitable status.

THE SHIP & TRADES, CHATHAM MARITIME EXPERIENCED ASSISTANT PUB MANAGER

The successful applicant will be part of the Management Team, responsible for the
day-to-day running of the business. Experience of management, not necessarily in
the hospitality industry, is important for this position. In particular we are looking
for someone who can lead and motivate staff to provide a consistently high
standard of customer service in a busy and varied environment.

Benefits will include a competitive salary, 5 day week, 5.6 weeks paid holiday per
annum, participation in the company's Assistant Management
Development Programme, and excellent prospects for
an enthusiastic, career minded candidate.

E-mail your CV and covering letter to
ship&trades@shepherd-neame.co.uk



GARDENER

required in the Tunbridge Wells area to work
between 7-21 hours per week. Must have
good sound knowledge in planting, pruning,
hedge and grass cutting. Must work well on
own initiative - own vehicle required

Rate of pay will start at £9.00 per hour
plus fuel costs.

For more information please call 0800 032 0755

EXPERIENCED CHEF/COOK

Looking for a talented chef to create interesting, innovative menus

Must have:

- passion for food with knowledge of Kentish produce
- understanding of budgets, stock management
- Award in Food Safety in Catering Level 2

If you have the skills, enthusiasm and passion
required, please telephone 07973559729

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The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site.

We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

STAFF NURSE (MARGATE) OUTPATIENTS

Full and Part - time position available

Closing date for applications - Monday 11th April 2011

Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Evidence of continual professional development

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact

Sue Bowe - Outpatient Sister or Carolyn Flegg - Staff Nurse, on 01843 234555 Ext: 63425

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing,

QEOM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer

These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check



Required for
September 2011



Head of Business Studies and ICT (TLR 1a)

We are looking for a dynamic new leader for our Business Studies and ICT Faculty. The school has invested heavily recently in quality equipment and a VLE. Business is the second specialist subject here and a popular option. The Faculty is linked with Technology and together drive the school's enterprise work. But there is more to do.

Are you:

- A good leader and motivator of both adults and children;
- Able to bring visionary thinking into everyday practice;
- Committed to the highest possible standards of teaching and learning?

We promise:

- A supportive and friendly environment in which to work;
- Recognition of your skills and ideas in the development of the school;
- Good training and career development opportunities;
- New and invigorating challenges.

Closing date for applications: 4pm 6th April 2011

Date of interviews: Week beginning 2nd May 2011

Application forms and information from:
Susan Allison, Meopham School, Wrotham Road,
Meopham, Kent. DA13 0AH
Telephone: 01474 814646 x234
Email: sal@meopham.kent.sch.uk
Visit: www.meopham.kent.sch.uk

All our posts are subject to stringent child protection checks.



THE NEW SCHOOL AT WEST HEATH SEVENOAKS

"Rebuilding lives through education"

Principal & Chief Executive: Mrs Christina Wells (BA Hons.)

The New School at West Heath works towards helping students develop life skills and enjoy social activities. As a team we share a real desire to set a new, even higher standard of care in education and you can help us achieve this goal. The School has approval status from the DfCS and has an excellent rapport with both parents and the Local Authorities.

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, flexible and innovative

ART TEACHER

Required from September 2011

The successful candidate will:

- excellent specialist subject knowledge and skills to teach effectively up to GCSE
- develop an innovative and creative learning environment
 - have the ability work effectively within a team
 - teach across ability range in KS3 & KS4
- the commitment to pursue opportunities for CPD

We offer Teachers rate of pay and SEN allowance

Contact Lynne McGrath for an application form and job description.

Email: personnel@westheathschoool.co.uk Tel: 01732 460 553

Closing date for applications 8 April 2011

The successful applicants will be subject to a CRB check and Vetting & Barring.

For further details about our school please visit our website
www.westheathschoool.co.uk

The New School at West Heath is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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Required for
September 2011



Head of Creative Arts (TLR1b)

We are looking for an experienced and dynamic leader for Art, Dance, Drama, Media and Music, from September 2011.

We welcome applications from individuals who can demonstrate a passion for the Arts, and who have a real understanding of how students learn kinaesthetically. We have gained Artsmark award. There is good informal collaboration between departments through the school's excellent performances and festivals. We are now looking for someone to develop the faculty even further to provide outstanding teaching & learning for the 21st century. We are fortunate in having an innovative Creative Arts department which has recently taken a major role in developing enquiry based learning in the school. Team working is excellent.

This is a perfect opportunity for a dynamic leader who is keen to excite and challenge both pupils and staff in the pursuit of excellence on the next stage of our journey.

Closing date for applications: 4pm 6th April 2011

Date of interviews: Week beginning 2nd May 2011

Application forms and information from:
Susan Allison, Personnel Officer, Meopham School,
Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent. DA13 0AH
Telephone: 01474 814646 x234
Email: sal@meopham.kent.sch.uk
Visit: www.meopham.kent.sch.uk

All our posts are subject to stringent child protection checks.



NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

We are seeking to appoint

ASSESSMENT & PERFORMANCE DATA ANALYST

25 hours per week/term time only • Kent Scheme 5 Points 14-17 - £9,574 to £10,531 p.a.

To work as part of a team to support the accurate recording, reporting and analysis of pupils attainment data. Educated to at least A Level standard with a strong analytical ability and good knowledge of Excel.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

Learning Support Assistant

31.25 hours per week (8.30 am to 3.15 pm)

Kent Scheme Grade 5 - Points 14-17 - £11,968 to £13,164 p.a.

To support a variety of class teachers in ensuring access to the curriculum for a range of students with a particular focus on additional or special educational needs in relation to language. Excellent literacy skills in English and at least one other language which are supported by an enthusiastic and motivational approach to students. HLTA qualification desirable (or willingness to achieve HLTA).

TEACHING ASSISTANT

31.25 hours per week (8.30 to 3.15 pm)

Kent Scheme 4 or 5 dependant on qualifications & experience

To support a variety of class teachers in ensuring access to the curriculum for a range of pupils with a particular focus on additional or special educational needs.

Full job description and application form available on our website at www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Application by fully completed application form with supporting letter to Mrs S Chisholm at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ - email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Tel: 01474 831020

The successful applicant will be subject to a full CRB check.

Closing date for applications: 4 April 2011

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MallingHolmesdale
MHF Federation
"Two world class schools at the heart of their communities"

Learning Resource Centre Manager

Kent Scheme 5, 37 hours per week, 40 weeks per year (term time plus one week) £16,793 to £18,471 pro rata.

The Malling Holmesdale Federation is seeking an enthusiastic individual prepared to run a vibrant school library at the heart of



The Malling School in East Malling. To start asap after Easter. Qualifications in English and mathematics to GCSE grade C essential. Must be IT literate. Please see our website www.mhfederation.co.uk for full job description, person specification and application form. To discuss the role contact Sue Ricketts on 01732 840995

Closing date: 12.00 noon on Monday 4 April
Interviews w/c 4 April

MHF is committed to the safeguarding of all young people and this post will be subject to an enhanced CRB and CV check

Westlands Academies Trust



THE WESTLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker
37 hours a week from 11am – 7pm Mondays-Friday
Kent Pay Band 3 - £14,099 - £15,984

Extra payments will be made to cover any out-of-hours lettings during evenings and weekends and for weekend/Bank Holiday standby duty, all of which are carried out on a mandatory, shared rota basis. Applicants must be prepared to work a variety of hours, should the need arise.

The successful applicant will work as a member of the Site Maintenance team. As well as general caretaking duties they will be expected to undertake site maintenance, and so a good working knowledge and experience with carpentry, electrics, plumbing and decorating is essential. An awareness of swimming pool maintenance would be an advantage.

You are welcome to contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school or online. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.


Closing date: 6 April 2011 Interviews: 8 April 2011

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.


Tel: 01795 470862 Fax: 01795 477886
Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA
Westlands Academies Trust Holmewood Avenue
Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1XN
Company No 7344732





Required for
September 2011



**Full time
Female Teacher of PE**

Meopham is a very successful specialist sports college. This is an opportunity for someone to get experience in a high-performing PE team. We are looking for someone who has potential to lead and innovate in this next phase of our plans.

Closing date for applications: 4pm 6th April 2011
Date of interviews: Week beginning 2nd May 2011

Application forms and information from:
Susan Allison, Personnel Officer, Meopham School,
Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent. DA13 0AH
Telephone: 01474 814646 x234
Email: sal@meopham.kent.sch.uk
Visit: www.meopham.kent.sch.uk

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Accountancy

Assistant Accountant

Mid Kent
Salary £20,000 plus bonus
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1731

Accounts Administrator

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
dtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Support Service Assistant

The Folkestone School for Girls
Salary Kent Pay Scheme Band
To apply/more information:
Folkestone School For Girls
sdunster@folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KoS

PQQ SUBMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR

Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Piper Windows
piper@piperwindows.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER

Aylesham
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start
TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER
Required 42.5 hours per week - 8:00am to 4:30pm Mon to Fri £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start
Previous experience working in a small business on a financial computer software package. You must have a full Driving Licence to drive company vehicle. Must have a good telephone manner and knowledge of computers to develop company website. Your duties will involve day to day operations of normal buying and selling procedures within a small business, accurate daily record keeping and filing of engineers site attendance into suspension And computer files, website development and other administration tasks as required. Rapid enhancement of

pay structure for the right applicant. Written application with CV to Pauline Stirrups at Pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk
To apply/more information:
A & C Pumps Ltd
Pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Accounts Administrator

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
Full-time/ Part-time
Are you looking for a change in direction or looking to take a new route with your skills? An opportunity as an Accounts Administrator and PA to Doctor has arisen within an expanding, exceptional health centre. We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics) Must be a proficient user of Sage 50 and Microsoft Office, particularly Word, Excel and Publisher: other basic computer skills are preferable. Hard working and motivated Enthusiastic and committed Organised and efficient Works well within a team and solo Thrives on self improvement and success
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
dtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
dtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
dtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

Agriculture, Forestry, Environment

Gardener

Tunbridge Wells
Salary £9.00 per hour
Gardener required in the Tunbridge Wells area to work

between 7-21 hours per week
Must have good sound knowledge in planting, pruning, hedge and grass cutting
Must work well on own initiative - own vehicle required
Rate of pay will start at £9.00 per hour plus fuel costs
For more information, please call 0800 032 0755.
To apply/more information:
DMS
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker

Sittingbourne
Salary £14,099 - £15,984
To apply/more information:
Westlands School (The)
swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Art and Design

ART TEACHER

Sevenoaks
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
New School at West Heath (The)
personnel@westheathschool.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Catering, Hospitality

Part-time cook

Meopham/Wrotham
Salary Negotiable
Part-time cook required for residential home in the Meopham and Wrotham area. Alternate weekends and plus holiday cover. To cook for 50 plus elderly residents. Good home cooking skills required. Please call Karen or Julie - Tel: 01732 8222150r email: holywellpark@aol.com
To apply/more information:
Holywell Park Ltd
debbieholywell@aol.com
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

EXPERIENCED CHEF/COOK

Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
EXPERIENCED CHEF/COOK
Looking for a talented chef to create interesting, innovative menus. Must have passion for food with knowledge of Kentish produce understanding of budgets, stock management Award in Food Safety in Catering Level 2. If you have the skills, enthusiasm and passion

required, please telephone 07973 559729.
To apply/more information:
New Inn
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Head Chef & Assistant Chef

Whitstable
Salary Negotiable
The Plough Public House
Require a Full Time Head Chef & Assistant Chef. For a busy Pub/Restaurant.
Experience Necessary and Knowledge of GP would be ideal
Must be hardworking and cope under pressure. To apply please call Iltan on 01227 792428.
To apply/more information:
Plough (The)
theplough.swalecliffe@live.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

Estimator

Ashford, Kent
Salary: Negotiable
Celebrating 130 years in the print industry, Headley Brothers Ltd is currently looking to recruit an Estimator. Working within the Commercial team and handling a range of print projects, as Estimator you would be responsible for: Producing accurate estimates, tenders and costings; obtaining pricing from internal sources and suppliers, and preparing price matrices. Liaising with staff, suppliers and customers, to ensure provision of the best possible production alternatives and solutions to client requests. Supporting the Commercial Manager in ensuring the commercial success of the company. The ideal candidate will: Be self-motivated, highly-driven and dynamic. Have excellent organisational skills. Be a strong team player, with excellent interpersonal skills. Have strong oral, numerical and written communication skills. Estimating experience and/or a knowledge of the print industry would be considered useful, but not essential. Headley Brothers Limited is an Investor in People and an equal opportunities employer. Please send your CV to Paul Palmer, Headley Brothers Ltd, The Invicta Press, Queens Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 8HH, or by email to: paul.palmer@headley.co.uk.

All applications should include reference number: KOS01.
Closing date: Friday 15th April 2011. Please note that responses will only be issued to applicants that are eligible for interview.

Cavity Wall Insulation Technicians

Pembury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Skinner & Reeves
john@skinnerandreeves.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Loft Insulation Installers

Pembury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Skinner & Reeves
john@skinnerandreeves.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Plant Drivers

Kent
Salary £10 - £11.50 Per Hour
Experience Plant Drivers required for site work in the Kent and Essex area. Duties will include operating plant machinery on site. Contract work that can become long term for suitable candidates. Must have own transport as sites locations vary on each contract. Looking for the following operators: - 360 Drivers- 180 Drivers - Telehandlers- Dumper Drivers - Cherry Pickers- Roller Drivers Essential that all operator hold CPCs and CSCS Cards An Advantage to hold Person and Best Tickets or Bluewater Cards Must have Full PPE Hard Hat, Boots and Vis Vest. TO APPLY CALL CARL DAVIS ON 01622 664999.
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Shop Fitter Joiner

Kent
Salary £11 Per Hour
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Traffic Mangament Ops

Kent
Salary £7 - £ 12 Per Hour



Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

Maidstone Road Rochester Kent ME1 3EL
Tel: 01634 844008 Email: harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk
A Voluntary Controlled School with specialisms in Mathematics, Computing and Humanities
An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1180 students including 300 in the co-educational Sixth Form

We require a full time COVER SUPERVISOR

who would be prepared to act as a Pastoral Support Assistant for 37 hours per week, term time only, to start in May 2011.
Salary will be according to age and experience and will be paid at Medway Grade D2 - Salary range £15,039 - £19,126 pro rata.

Would you be able to liaise with parents, teachers and other professionals in support of individuals?

Would you be interested in developing your skills with classes of young people?

If so, please contact Mrs J Harrison, Headteacher's PA, for an application form and job specification on 01634 844008.

Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check

Closing date for applications - Wednesday, 6th April 2011



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maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Customer Service, Call Centre

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Domestic

Care Domestic

Westgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Gordon Lodge
applications@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

IRONING SUPERVISOR

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Molly Maid
vicky.irvine@mollymaid-cleaners.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

CLEANERS AND IRONERS

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Molly Maid
vicky.irvine@mollymaid-cleaners.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Domestic Trades

Gardener

Tunbridge Wells
Salary £9.00 per hour
To apply/more information:
DMS
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker

Sittingbourne
Salary £14,099 - £15,984
To apply/more information:
Westlands School (The)
swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Education, Teacher, School

WELLNESS COACHES

Swale, Medway
Salary £500-£1000+ per month
To apply/more information:
Arriba
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Graduate Teacher Programme

Gravesend
Salary £13,500 during training
To apply/more information:
St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
mccassery@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

ART TEACHER

Sevenoaks
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
New School at West Heath (The)
personnel@westheathschool.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker

Sittingbourne
Salary £14,099 - £15,984

To apply/more information:
Westlands School (The)
swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Northfleet
Salary Dependant on
To apply/more information:
Northfleet School for Girls
personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Health & Beauty

WELLNESS COACHES

Swale, Medway
Salary £500-£1000+ per month
To apply/more information:
Arriba
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

Health & Safety, Security, Defence

PQQ SUBMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR

Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Piper Windows
ron@piperwindows.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

STORES PERSON

Sevenoaks
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
LMS Ltd
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Jig Borer/Jig Grinder

Gillingham
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Aerospace Tooling
r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Forklift Clamp Drivers

Chatham
Salary £6 - £7 per hour
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

ASSESSMENT & PERFORMANCE DATA ANALYST

Northfleet
Salary £9,574 to £10,531 p.a.
To apply/more information:
Northfleet School for Girls
personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

EXPERIENCED CHEF/COOK

Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
New Inn
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Head Chef & Assistant Chef

Whitstable
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Plough (The)
theploough.swalecliffe@live.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Management, Senior Positions

Office & IT Manager

Ashford
Salary: £23,000- £25,000
Office & IT Manager
We are seeking a highly-organised and self-motivated Office and IT Manager to run our busy grant-making office. Kent Community Foundation is an energetic and ambitious charity that supports hundreds of voluntary and community organisations across Kent and Medway. So if you want to make a difference to your local community, this could be the job for you. We are looking for someone with a logical and systematic approach as well as a passion for technology and new media who can lead on our IT strategy. You will have a positive, can-do approach working as part of a small hard-working and enthusiastic team, with excellent communication and customer service skills. To find out more about this role, please email
admin@kentcf.org.uk or phone 01303 814 500.
Full-time Permanent
To apply/more information:
admin@kentcf.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Development and Marketing Officer

Ashford
Salary: c. £21,000- £23,000
Development and Marketing Officer. We are seeking a self-motivated Development and Marketing Officer to support the growth and expansion of Kent Community Foundation. We are an energetic and ambitious charity that supports hundreds of voluntary and community organisations across Kent and Medway. So if you want to make a difference to your local community, this could be the job for you. We are looking for someone with a successful track record in a business development role. Charitable fundraising experience would be helpful but not essential. What is most important is excellent communication and relationship-building skills. You will have a positive, can-do approach working as part of a small hard-working and enthusiastic team, with excellent customer service skills. To find out more about this role, please email
admin@kentcf.org.uk or phone 01303 814 500.
Full-time Permanent
To apply/more information:
admin@kentcf.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER

Aylesham
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start
To apply/more information:
A & C Pumps Ltd
Pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Marketing, Advertising

Sales People

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Your Local Business Marketing
info@yourlocalbusinessmarketing.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

EARN AN INCREASING MONTHLY INCOME...

Kent
Salary TBC
Distributors Wanted
Run your own business without the usual risks... and help people save money! choose your own hours full training and support up-front bonuses earn a second income on-going commission no stock to carry Find out more! Call: 0800 781 2433 www.minibills.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Utility Warehouse
johnandshella@minibills.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Sales People

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Your Local Business Marketing
info@yourlocalbusinessmarketing.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Telephone Sales Executive

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
Telephone Sales Executive
Ashford You will play a key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products. Candidates should possess a track record in telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships. Ideally you will have a media sales background, although this is not essential as full training and support is provided. We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. All candidates must have own transport. Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to: Christine Davidson, Commercial Director/ARCHANT KOS MEDIA, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS or by email christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk
To apply/more information:
ARCHANT | KOS MEDIA
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos 2

Car Sales Executive

Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Invicta Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Fund Raisers/ Instore Promotion People

Kent
Salary £6.50 PH plus bonus
To apply/more information:
Follow Your Dreams Ltd
sb@followyourdreams.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

To place your notice here
call the
Kent Public Notice team
on
01303 817044

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

PROW - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MR206, MR214, MR204, MR213, MR212 AND MR210

IN THE PARISH OF STANSTED

(Public Footpaths MR206, MR214, MR204, MR213, MR212 and MR210 in the Parish of Stansted)

(Prohibition Of Traffic) Temporary Order 2011

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 14(1), As Amended By The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close the following Footpaths:-

MR206 at (National Grid Reference) NGR TQ 611 619
MR214 at NGR TQ 609 616
MR204 at NGR TQ 607 612
MR213 at NGR TQ 605 611
MR212 at NGR TQ 601 611
MR210 at NGR TQ 601 611
from the 11th April 2011

The routes are to be closed because works to lay a water pipeline are planned on them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The paths will be closed until such time as the work is completed or for a maximum of six months, whichever is the sooner. It is expected that each path will only be closed for 1 month while work is being carried out.

The alternative routes are Stansted Hill, Tumblefield Road and Plaxdale Green Road and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michele Snoding
Tel: 01732 872829 (6).

PROW - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH WC138 (PART) CRANBROOK) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 to divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered WC138 which commences at NGR TQ 7755 3980 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and runs in a west south-westerly direction for 110 metres to NGR TQ 7744 3978 (Point B). Between Points A-B on the Order Plan; and will add a new length of public footpath numbered WC138 with a width of 2.5 metres which commences at NGR TQ 7755 3980 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and runs in a west south-westerly direction for 110 metres to NGR TQ 7744 3979 (Point C). Between Points A-B on the Order Plan.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

The above notice(s) may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, The Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB or the Kent County Council, Environment & Waste at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Matthew Garvey at the address below (Tel: 01622 221971) before 26 April 2011. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS WC256 & WC257A

IN THE PARISH OF FRITTENDEN

(Public Footpaths WC256 & WC257A in the Parish of Frittenden)

(Prohibition Of Traffic) Temporary Order 2011

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 14(1), As Amended By The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close: Public Footpath WC257A between The Street and Public Footpath WC256 (NGR TQ 814 409) and Public Footpath WC256 (the western boundary of Frittenden Primary School) from the junction with Public Footpath WC257A (NGR TQ 814 409) and the junction with Public Footpath WC255 (NGR TQ 813 409) from the 11th April 2011

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned to construct a new school hall and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is along the footway of The Street to the Church gate and then along Public Footpath WC255 to the junction with WC256 (NGR TQ 813 409) and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Jonathan Bibby
Tel. 01732 872829 x8

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 26th March 2011



HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116

STOPPING UP OF LAND ADJACENT TO
ST DUNSTAN'S STREET, CANTERBURY

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Canterbury Magistrates Court on 31 May 2011 at 10.00am for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land adjacent to St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury as shown in red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent Highway Services at Sessions, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Network Performance of Kent Highway Services in writing at the address given below, or by telephone on 08458 247 800 (24 hour contact centre).

WATER LANE, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED
BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS)
ACT 1991

Because of BT ducting works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Water Lane, Sturry, on or after 16 April 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via A28 Mill Road and Fordwich Road.

It is planned that the works will be carried out on Saturday 16 April and Sunday 17 April, with a further closure on Monday 18 April after 2.00 pm to reinstate the road surface.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

FULBERT ROAD & ROKESLEY ROAD, DOVER
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED
BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS)
ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Fulbert Road & Rokesley Road, Dover, on or after 13 April 2011 for up to 8 days or until the works have been completed.

The entire lengths of each road will be closed in rolling sections, as advised and signed on site.

Access will be maintained from either Fulbert Road or Rokesley Road as signed locally, with other access maintained whenever it is safe to do so.

MARINE PARADE, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED
BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS)
ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Marine Parade, Dover, on or after 14 April 2011 for up to 6 weekdays or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in rolling sections between Townwall Street and Waterloo Crescent.

The alternative route is via A20 Townwall Street, Snargate Street, Prince of Wales Roundabout to Union Street, Esplanade and Waterloo Crescent.

WILLOW ROAD, GREAT MONGEHAM (PROHIBITION OF
DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED
BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS)
ACT 1991

Because of works to construct a new kerb build-out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Willow Road, Great Mongeham, on or after 11 April 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Deal Road and Northbourne Road.

The alternative route is via Deal Road, The Street and Northbourne Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

HENLEY STREET, LUDDESDOWNE - (TEMPORARY
PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED
BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Henley Street, Luddesdowne for the entire length.

The Order will become effective on 28th March 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the

appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Sole Street, The Street Cobham, Cobhambury Road, Luddesdown Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate soak away cleansing.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE)(WAITING RESTRICTION ORDER)
(VARIATION NO 6) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3), 3(2) and 4 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order has the following effect

1. to introduce "no waiting at any time" (double yellow lines) on the following roads or lengths of roads:-

Boughton Lane, Cripple Street and Shernolds.
2. to introduce no loading/unloading on the northern side of Cripple Street from the junction with (A229) Loose Road to the junction with Warnford Gardens.

The Order was sealed on 22 March 2011 and will come into force 28 March 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices at Maidstone Borough Council and at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

STATION ROAD & BROCA ROAD, HEVER - (TEMPORARY
PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED
BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Station Road & Brocas Road, Hever between Brocas Farm and road leading to Hever Station.

The Order will become effective on 11th April 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 12th April 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Hartfield Road, Lydens Lane, New House Farm Road and Hever Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works.

WATERY LANE, SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY
PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED
BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Watery Lane, Sevenoaks between under Railway Bridge and its junction with Honeypot Lane.

The Order will become effective on 11th April 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 6 weeks.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Honeypot Lane, Noah's Ark, High Street and Heaverham Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate repair to damaged wall.

VARIOUS ROADS, WEST KINGSDOWN - (TEMPORARY
PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED
BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, West Kingsdown as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 28th March 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the event is planned to last as noted in the schedule. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Restriction:	Temporary One Way Order Eastbound from 14.00 – 20.00 hours.
Road Name:	Scratchers Lane, West Kingsdown. Extent: From its junction with A20 London Road/Gorse Hill to its junction with Three Gates Lane.
Diversion:	A20 London Road and Fawkham Road. Traffic lights will also be placed at the junction of A20 London Road and Gorse Hill that will be manually controlled between 14.00 – 20.00 hours to assist vehicles leaving Brands Hatch Race Circuit.
Restriction:	30mph Speed Limit.
Road Name:	A20 London Road/Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.
Extent:	Between W J Kings Garage London Road, Farnham and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station, West Kingsdown.
Restriction:	Suspend Cycle Lane Order.
Road Name:	A20 London Road/ Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.
Extent 1:	Between Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station and Scratchers Lane.
Extent 2:	Between Scratchers Lane and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station.
Diversion:	Cyclists should dismount and walk along the pavement for the length of the restriction.
Restriction:	No Right Turn.
1:	Into Donkey Lane southbound from A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.
2:	Out of Donkey Lane onto A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.

Dates: 3rd April, 25th April, 24th July, 7th August, 4th September, 2nd October and 9th October 2011.

The purpose of the restrictions is to facilitate safety to road users and members of the public.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116

STOPPING UP OF LAND AT LOWER SANDGATE ROAD,
FOLKESTONE.

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Canterbury Magistrates Court on 31 May 2011 at 10am for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at Lower Sandgate Road, Folkestone as shown in red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent Highway Services at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ during normal opening times.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Nicolette Davis of Kent Highway Services in writing at the address given below, or by telephone on 08458 247 800 (24 hour contact centre).

BEACHBOROUGH, NEWINGTON, FOLKESTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED
BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS)
ACT 1991

Because of tree surgery works to remove overhanging tree canopy, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Beachborough, Newington, Folkestone on or after 17 April 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the entrance to 'Coombe Farm' and the entrance to 'Little Orchard'. There will be no access for through traffic between Folkestone and Etchinghill.

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road, M20 between junctions 12 & 13, (non-motorway traffic via B2064 Cheriton High Street, Cheriton Road and Cherry Garden Avenue) A20, A260 Spiffire Way, Canterbury Road, A2 Dover Road, Bonny Bush Hill, Black Robin Lane, Valley Road, Derrington Hill, Elham Valley Road and Canterbury Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

DAWES ROAD, DUNKIRK (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED
BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS)
ACT 1991

Because of water and gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting

through traffic on Dawes Road, Dunkirk, on or after 28 March 2011 for up to 9 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Staplestreet Road and Stoney Road.

The alternative route is via Staplestreet Road, Canterbury Road, Boughton Hill, Canterbury Road and Courtenay Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

PARAGON STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF
DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED
BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS)
ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Paragon Street, Ramsgate, on or after 28 March 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 4.

The alternative route is via Addington Street, West Cliff Road and Royal Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Paragon Street will be suspended to allow access up to the point of closure.

VARIOUS ROADS, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED
BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS)
ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Margate, on or after 28 March 2011 for up to 25 weeks or until the works have been completed.

DANE HILL, MARGATE will be closed at the junction with Dane Road, from 28 March for up to 3 weeks. The alternative route is via King Street, Trinity Hill, Trinity Square and Northdown Road. The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended to allow access only.

KING STREET, MARGATE will be closed between the junctions with Dane Road and Hawley Street. From 18 April 2011 for up to 10 weeks. The alternative route is via Addington Street, Union Crescent and Hawley Street.

DANE HILL, MARGATE – will be closed for its entire length, from 27 June 2011 for up to 12 weeks. The alternative route is as shown above, with the One-way Traffic Order suspended to allow access only.

DANE HILL GROVE, MARGATE will be closed for its entire length, from 18 July 2011 for up to 2 weeks. There is no alternative route. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

The dates of the phases are approximate guidelines, and may vary subject to weather and ground conditions. The exact dates will be notified to local residents and businesses and signposted on site.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
HIGH STREET, WEST MALLING
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011/12THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is taking place on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on High Street, West Malling, between the entrance to the short stay car park (adj. 107 High Street) and the junction with Swan Street.

The Order will become effective on 17th April 2011 for the dates shown in schedule 1 below, between the hours of 6am to 2pm or until the time stated next to that date. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place for the durations of the events. Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The alternative route for High Street, West Malling will be via A228 Ashton Way, A20 London Road and Town Hill. The alternative route for Castle Way, Leybourne will be via Oxley Shaw Lane.

The purpose of the Order is to enable the Farmers Market, the Christmas lights switch on and the Royal Wedding street party to take place.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800
(local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

Schedule 1

Sunday 17th April 2011	Sunday 25th September 2011
Sunday 24th April 2011	Sunday 23rd October 2011
Friday 29th April 2011 (until 8.00pm)	Sunday 27th November 2011 (until 8.00pm)
Sunday 22nd May 2011 (until 5.00pm)	Sunday 18th December 2011
Sunday 26th June 2011	Sunday 22nd January 2012
Sunday 24th July 2011	Sunday 26th February 2012
Sunday 28th August 2011	Sunday 25th March 2012

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(STATION ROAD, DITTON)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
(PROHIBITION OF LEFT TURN)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS)
ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the eastbound slip road of Station Road and prohibiting Large Goods Vehicles from turning left onto the A20 London Road from Station Road on or after Monday 11th April 2011 for a period of up to 12 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Hall Road and A20 London Road.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for mains reinforcement. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Robert Anthony on 01634 276259.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XQ

Dated 26th March 2011

For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



PLANNING NOTICES

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

- 10/03229/HOUSE** **Wealden Heights Cranbrook Road, Benenden**
- Erection of a single storey triple bay garage and store room; creation of new vehicular access (LB)
- 11/00741/FUL** **Beacon Mill Windmill Rolvenden Road, Benenden**
- Conversion, alterations and extensions to provide ancillary residential accommodation to main house at ground floor level, and holiday let on upper floor levels; new shed including log store (LB)
- 11/00747/FUL** **Beacon Mill Windmill Rolvenden Road, Benenden**
- Conversion, alterations and extensions to provide one holiday let at ground floor level, and one holiday let on upper floor levels; new shed including log store (LB)
- 11/00618/HOUSE** **Botley 7A Nevill Park, Broadwater**
- Summerhouse in rear garden (CA)
- 11/00719/FUL** **Raffles Of Cranbrook St Davids Bridge, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Change of use from restaurant and bar to 3 additional flats (CA) (LB)
- 11/00660/FUL** **Bakers Farm House Barn Latham Road, Goudhurst**
- Detached oak framed storage building to store owners tractor and bicycle storage for self catering holiday accommodation; Removal of condition 12 of planning permission TW/09/03736/FUL "The bicycle storage shed shall be retained for such use to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority" (LB)
- 11/00758/HOUSE** **Keepers Cottage Delmonden Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Demolition of existing garden room/bedroom and outbuildings and replacement with single storey snug/living room extension. First floor rear extension over kitchen (LB)
- 11/00762/LBC** **Keepers Cottage Delmonden Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of existing garden room/bedroom and outbuildings and replacement with single storey snug/living room extension. First floor rear extension over kitchen (TW/11/00758 refers) (LB)
- 11/00733/HOUSE** **Church Cottage Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden**
- Single storey rear extension and related alterations (LB)
- 11/00734/LBC** **Church Cottage Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: Single storey rear extension and related alterations (LB)
- 11/00550/HOUSE** **4 Montacute Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Side dormer and pitched roof to existing rear flat roofed two-storey extension (CA)
- 11/00579/HOUSE** **2 The Ferns Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Two-storey side and single-storey rear extension, conversion of integral garage to habitable accommodation (CA)
- 11/00624/HOUSE** **40 Grove Hill Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Conversion of front garden to form hard standing for off road parking with cross-over to highway (CA)
- 11/00709/HOUSE** **Holly House 6 Camden Park, Park**
- Open air swimming pool and pool house with decking area (CA)
- 11/00712/HOUSE** **Mays Farmhouse Romford Road, Pembury**
- Demolition of conservatory and construction of a single storey rear extension, attic conversion and associated works (LB)
- 11/00714/LBC** **Mays Farmhouse Romford Road, Pembury**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of conservatory and construction of a single storey rear extension, attic conversion and associated works (LB)
- 11/00544/FUL** **8 Lower Green Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Rusthall**
- Ground floor change of use from A1 shop/office to residential two bed flat (CA)
- 11/00038/FUL** **The Gardens Barden Road, Speldhurst**
- Change of use of part of land to burial ground (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA)
Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST)
Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 26 March 2011



HIGHWAYS – BOROUGH OF DARTFORD AND DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

VARIOUS ROADS, DARENTH AND SOUTH DARENTH – (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, Darenth and South Darenth as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 17th January 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the event is planned to commence 3rd April 2011 last 1 day between 09.00 - 12.00. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Road name:	Roman Villa Road, South Darenth
Extent:	Between its junctions with Darenth Hill and Holmesdale Hill
Diversion:	Marshalls will be giving motorists diversion advice
Road name:	Rabbits Road, South Darenth
Extent:	Between its junctions with Shrubbery Road and Canada Farm Road
Diversion:	Shrubbery Road, Holmesdale Hill, St Margrets Road and B260 Green Street Green Road
Road name:	Gills Road, South Darenth
Extent:	Between its junctions with Holmesdale Hill and B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion:	B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road
Road name:	Wilson Lane, South Darenth
Extent:	Between its junctions with Gills Road and Rabbits Road
Diversion:	B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road
Road name:	Canada Farm Road, South Darenth
Extent:	Between its junctions with Three Gates Road and B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion:	B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road
Road name:	NO ENTRY to St Margarets Road, Darenth
Extent:	From B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion:	B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road
Road name:	NO ENTRY to Darenth Hill, Darenth
Extent:	From B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion:	B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road and A225 Hawley Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the event, Les Witton Dartford 10KM.

HIGHWAYS – BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

(BELTRING LEVEL CROSSING GRAVELLY WAYS YALDING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Beltring Leval crossing Gavelly Way Yalding on or after Saturday 2nd April 2011 (at 22.30) until Monday 4th April 2011 (at 04.00) for a period of up to 3 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Gravely Ways, Lees Road, Hampstead Lane, Maidstone Road, Boyle Way, Branbridges Road and Gravely Ways and vice versa.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to enable a level crossing inspection. Should you require any further information the Mel Speight on 01924 371 967.

(EYHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Eyhorne Street, Hollingbourne on or after Monday 11th April 2011 for a period of up to 21 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Eyhorne Street, Upper Street, Hollingbourne Hill, The Street, Bredgar, Primrose Lane, Tunstall, Tunstall Road, Woodstock Road, Bell Road, St Michael Road A2, Dover Street A2, West Street A2 London Road A2 Key Street A2 Bearsted Road A249, Sittingbourne Road A249, Ashford Road A20.

Southern Gas Networks Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to provide a Gas mains re-enforcement. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Keith White on 07770 730572.

HIGHWAYS – BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

(LOWER HAYSDEN LANE TONBRIDGE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Lower Haysden Lane Tonbridge between junction of Upper Haysden Lane and Hayesden Lane and the southern boundary of number 2 Great Haysden on or after Monday 14th March 2011 or a period of up to 1 week such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is Upper Haysden Lane, Lower Haysden Lane and vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to repair a broken highway drainage pipe to prevent highway flooding and road surface deterioration. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Sarah Fletcher on 08458 247 800.

(OXLEY SHAW LANE LEYBOURNE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Oxley Shaw Lane, Leybourne between Roundhay and A20 London Road, on or after Monday 11th April 2011 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is via Lillieburn and A228 Castle Way and vice versa.

Kent Highways Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to upgrade of the traffic signals at A20 London Road junction with A228 Castle Way. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Ian Brooks on 01622 666212.

For further information or comment please call Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

KATHERINE KERSWELL, Group Managing Director
Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2XQ



COUNCIL NOTICES



**Adoption Notice
Sexual Entertainment Venues
Licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues**

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd March 2011 Maidstone Borough Council passed a Resolution in exercise of their powers under Part 2 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, to adopt Schedule 3 of the Act as amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 for the licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues. The resolution will come into force on the 1st May 2011.

The effect of this resolution is that sexual entertainment venues that provide 'relevant entertainment' as defined under the Act will need to be licensed by Maidstone Borough Council unless the requirement for a licence has been waived. There will be an opportunity for members of the public and enforcement agencies to object to the grant, renewal and transfer of licences and licences may be granted, granted with conditions or refused.

MARRIAGE LICENCE

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Sole Street House, Selling Road, Faversham**
Applicant: **Dr Rosalind Miles**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



PREMISES & GOODS LICENCES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Gurvinder Kaur & Dilbag Bhandal of 13 Arthur Street Gravesend Kent DA11 0PP has applied to Sevenoaks District Council for a new Premises Licence for an off licence. Proposed Opening Hours are Monday to Sunday 8am until 10pm for the premises Pembury General Store of 132 Henwood Green Road, Pembury, Kent, TN2 4LR.

Any person wishing to view details of an application can contact the licensing team on 01732 227325/227299. Any person wishing to make representation about the proposals should make them in writing to: The Licensing Team, Sevenoaks District Council, PO BOX 182, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP.

Notice to be displayed for 28 days from 10.3.11 to 6.4.11.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary of conviction for the offence is £5000.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATORS LICENCE

Kent Carriage Horses Ltd of Little Westhill Farm, Belsey Lane, Ewell Minnis, Dover, Kent CT15 7DY is applying for licence to use Little Westhill Farm, Belsey Lane, Ewell Minnis, Dover, Kent CT15 7DY as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Ivy House, 3 Ivy Terrace, Eastbourne, BN21 4QT stating their reasons within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioners Office

To place your notice
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Citroën DS3 Racing ahead

First Drive

by **IAINDOOLEY**

Citroën DS3 Racing

WHEN so many car makers try their hardest to create fake wood and carbon fibre trim, it's a rare treat to see the real thing in anything other than a megabucks supercar.

Citroën's DS3 Racing is one such rarity – and more than just that reason. A high-profile nod to its maker's world rally programme – star driver Sebastien Loeb's company car is a competition-prepped DS3 – the road-going Racing sports real carbon fibre trim inside and out.

It also boasts a significant power hike over the regular DS3, however that's a fair trade-off for being a limited edition car. Citroën has planned for just 2,000 DS3 Racing models, with 200 earmarked for

the UK. At least the car's 204 horsepower motor is some consolation.

Usually special editions come with the odd trinket or two in a feeble attempt to justify their limited-run status. Citroën has done the decent thing with its DS3 Racing, though. Along with the aforementioned carbon trim, the car's 1.6-litre turbo motor's output has leapt from an already reasonable 150 horsepower to that 204bhp hot hatch-baiting figure.

Then there's the figure-hugging sports seats, tweaked and more audible exhaust system, increased turbocharger boost, recalibrated suspension settings, wider front and rear track, lower ride height and uprated brakes. Not just a rebadged car with fancy trim, then.

Tweaks

Citroën would be offended if you thought its 'Racing' competition division is responsible for the various tweaks. It even has a hand in the assembly process, which explains the limited nature of the car's life – man can only work so fast and don't forget, the guys at Citroën Racing have another day job: preparing the cars for the French firm's multi-championship winning rally team.

With all that in mind, the DS3 Racing understandably costs a little more than its

DS3 sibling, although hopefully you can see that it's money well spent. Factor in the ability to choose between black with an orange roof or white with a black roof, plus the chance to customise the exterior and interior with suitably racy-looking graphics, and it's clear this is not a car for shrinking violets.

On the road it's more of a polished all-rounder than its on-paper, low-volume, high-performance credentials suggest. The various suspension, track and damping changes do much to enhance the car's stability when the front wheels are faced with 204 and not 150 horsepower.

Drive the DS3 Racing quickly and its ability to cover ground competently and efficiently isn't in question. Make no mistake, this is a substantial power hike and one that's immediately noticeable on the road. Ride comfort is surprisingly good – even on potholed roads – and it changes direction with little fuss.

Fortunately for the purists, Citroën resisted the temptation of fitting its semi-auto paddleshift gearbox. The DS3 Racing's slick six-speed manual gearbox is an excellent companion. The car's uprated brakes are also a welcome addition. Although the car's exhaust note is more prominent, it's still easy to barrel up to corners faster than you'd planned. Thank

goodness for those beefy Brembo stoppers.

Still, the upside to this near-stealth approach to back-road performance motoring is that the car is super-refined on the urban commute and the motorway. The Racing variant can be used every day despite looking like it's just been signed off by a crazy high-performance tuning company.

And while you're sitting in the morning's stop-go traffic, at least you can play with the car's high-spec audio unit, fiddle with the air-con or Bluetooth phone connection and listen to music from your connected MP3 player.

Like with so many special edition, limited-run cars, the decision to buy or not to buy is a personal one. The regular DS3 is a fine car – stylish, refined, capable – and has done wonders for Citroën's brand image. The DS3 Racing successfully builds on those attributes.

The motorsport angle isn't some hollow marketing fluff, either. The department behind the rally cars had direct input into the road car and is part of the assembly process, which is something genuine enthusiasts can relate to. So, not only does the DS3 Racing look the part it can act it, too.



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CONVERTIBLES CABRIOLETS COUPES

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2007 (57) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles.....	£6,995

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2009 (09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles.....	£10,995
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2005 (55) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles.....	£5,495

FOCUS ESTATES

2008 (08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1250 miles.....	£9,495
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RENAULT SCENIC

2009 (59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles.....	£16,995
2007 (07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 75TR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles.....	£8,995
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2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 55TR MPV AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles.....	£7,995
2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 55TR MPV AUTO, GREY, 26000 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (57) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 55TR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles.....	£6,995

RENAULT

2010 (57) RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION VVT MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles.....	£11,995
2010 (60) RENAULT MODUS GRAND DYNAMIQUE VVT SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 250 miles.....	£9,995
2010 (10) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles.....	£9,995
2007 (57) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GOLD, 12000 miles.....	£9,995
2010 (10) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT SDR HATCH AUTO, OTTOMON BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£9,495
2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles.....	£8,995
2008 (08) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 75TR MPV AUTO, GREEN, 15000 miles.....	£8,995
2008 (58) RENAULT KANGOO AUTHENTIQUE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 300 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles.....	£7,995
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2008 (57) RENAULT MODUS DYNAMIQUE S VVT SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£6,495
2005 (05) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREEN, 39000 miles.....	£3,995

CHEVROLET

2008 (08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles.....	£6,995
2009 (09) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (58) CHEVROLET AVEO LT SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles.....	£6,995
2009 (58) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles.....	£6,995
2006 (56) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles.....	£4,995
2007 (07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 20000 miles.....	£4,495
2007 (07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles.....	£4,495

HYUNDAI

2008 (58) HYUNDAI GETZ GSI SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, RED, 7000 miles.....	£6,495
2007 (57) HYUNDAI ACCENT ATLANTIC LIMITED EDITION 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles.....	£5,995
2006 (56) HYUNDAI GETZ CDX SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 9000 miles.....	£5,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 24000 miles.....	£5,995
2007 (57) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI SALOON AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles.....	£5,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles.....	£5,995
2004 (54) HYUNDAI GETZ GSI SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£4,495

KIA

2009 (09) KIA CEED GS SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles.....	£8,995
2009 (59) KIA PICANTO STRIKE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles.....	£6,995

DAIHATSU

2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles.....	£6,995
2007 (57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£6,495
2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIRION 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles.....	£5,995
2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIRION SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles.....	£5,995

BMW

2009 (59) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles.....	£19,995
2008 (08) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles.....	£18,995
2008 (57) BMW 3 SERIES 318I M SPORT TOURING ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles.....	£16,995

FIAT

2010 (10) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles.....	£9,495
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FUSION

2010 (10) FORD FUSION ZETEC SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles.....	£9,995
2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles.....	£7,995
2009 (09) FORD FUSION FUSION + SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles.....	£7,495

CITROEN

2007 (57) CITROEN C3 SX 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, DIABLO RED, 13000 miles.....	£6,495
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CORSA

2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1000 miles.....	£10,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC SDR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles.....	£9,495
2009 (59) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles.....	£9,495
2009 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles.....	£8,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 4000 miles.....	£8,995
2009 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles.....	£8,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles.....	£8,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles.....	£8,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles.....	£7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 5000 miles.....	£7,495
2008 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles.....	£6,995
2005 (54) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 4000 miles.....	£5,495

MAZDA

2008 (08) MAZDA 5 5 TS2 MPV AUTO, GOLD, 15000 miles.....	£9,995
2008 (58) MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles.....	£9,995
2008 (08) MAZDA 3 3 TS2 SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles.....	£8,995
2006 (56) MAZDA 6 6 TS SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 21000 miles.....	£7,995
2007 (57) MAZDA 3 3 TS SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles.....	£7,995
2007 (57) MAZDA 2 2 CAPELLA SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles.....	£6,495
2007 (56) MAZDA 2 2 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles.....	£5,995

SUZUKI

2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles.....	£9,495
2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles.....	£8,995
2007 (57) SUZUKI SX4 GLX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles.....	£7,495
2007 (57) SUZUKI IGNIS GL VVT-S SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles.....	£5,995

TOYOTA

2007 (57) TOYOTA PRIUS T SPIRIT VVT-I SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£12,995
2010 (10) TOYOTA IQ VVT-I Q 3DR HATCH AUTO, PURPLE, 6000 miles.....	£9,495
2007 (57) TOYOTA AURIS T SPIRIT VVT-I MM SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles.....	£8,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVT-I MM SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles.....	£7,995
2005 (05) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I SDR HATCH AUTO, VENETIAN SILVER, 14000 miles.....	£7,995
2005 (54) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT VVT-I MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£7,495
2005 (55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 5000 miles.....	£7,495
2007 (07) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles.....	£6,995
2005 (55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I SDR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 5000 miles.....	£6,995
2005 (05) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles.....	£6,995
2005 (55) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 25000 miles.....	£6,495
2004 (04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I SDR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles.....	£5,495

NISSAN

2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 10000 miles.....	£19,995
2009 (59) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£17,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles.....	£15,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 7000 miles.....	£15,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£15,995
2008 (58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....	£15,495
2008 (58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles.....	£14,995
2007 (57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 21000 miles.....	£12,995
2010 (60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 300 miles.....	£11,995
2009 (09) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles.....	£9,995
2009 (58) NISSAN MICRA 25 CONVERTIBLE CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, EMOTION RED, 11000 miles.....	£9,995
2009 (59) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles.....	£8,995
2009 (59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 7000 miles.....	£8,495
2009 (59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles.....	£8,495
2010 (60) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (58) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (58) NISSAN MICRA ACTIVE LUXURY SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 11000 miles.....	£7,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA PLUS SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles.....	£6,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 18000 miles.....	£6,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles.....	£6,995
2006 (56) NISSAN NOTE SE MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles.....	£5,995
2005 (54) NISSAN ALMERA SE SDR HATCH AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 9000 miles.....	£4,995
2005 (05) NISSAN ALMERA S SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles.....	£4,995
2003 (52) NISSAN ALMERA SVE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 37000 miles.....	£3,695
2002 (02) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 10000 miles.....	£2,995

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£9,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles.....	£9,995
2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3DR HATCH AUTO, TECHNICAL GREY, 5000 miles.....	£9,495
2010 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles.....	£9,495
2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC SDR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 2000 miles.....	£8,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 14000 miles.....	£8,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC SDR HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 17000 miles.....	£8,495
2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles.....	£8,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 11000 miles.....	£7,495
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 19000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BEIGEFLY, 14000 miles.....	£6,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 20000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC SDR HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 17000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 16000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles.....	£6,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles.....	£5,995

NEW MODEL ASTRA

2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE SDR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 950 miles.....	£15,995
2010 (60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles.....	£14,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1600 miles.....	£13,995

ASTRA ESTATES

2009 (09) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 14 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 14 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 14 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 14 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles.....	£6,995
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 16000 miles.....	£6,495
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles.....	£5,995

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09 09	AGILA DESIGN CDTI 1.3D 5DR Atlantis Blue	£8495	10 60	CORSA SXI A/C 1.2 3DR Flame Red	£9995	10 10	ZAFIRA ENERGY 1.8 5DR Black Sapphire	£12995
10 60	AGILA CLUB 1.2 5DR Meteorite Grey	£8995	10 60	CORSA SXI A/C 1.2 3DR Black Sapphire	£10350	10 60	ZAFIRA ENERGY 1.8 5DR Silver Lightning	£13995
10 60	AGILA DESIGN 1.2 5DR Lemongrass or Moroccan Blue	£9995	10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 5DR Star Silver or Black Sapphire	£10995	10 10	ZAFIRA ENERGY CDTI 1.7D 5DR Star Silver	£14995
ASTRA SELECTION			10 10	CORSA SE 1.4 5DR Beech Green	£10995	10 10	ZAFIRA SRI X PACK CDTI 1.9D 5DR Black Sapphire	£17995
04 04	ASTRA SXI 1.4 3DR Star Silver	£3275	10 10	CORSA EXCLUSIV AUTO 1.4 5DR Technical Grey	£11495	NON-VAUXHALL SELECTION		
08 08	ASTRA BREEZE 1.4 5DR Ultra Blue	£6695	10 60	CORSA VXR 1.6 3DR Black Sapphire	£14995	04 04	CITROEN C3 DESIRE HDP 1.4 5DR Silver	£3995
07 57	ASTRA DESIGN ESTATE AUTO 1.8 5DR Metro Blue	£7495	INSIGNIA SELECTION			02 52	FORD FIESTA LX 1.4 5DR Silver	£3275
08 57	ASTRA SXI 1.4 3DR Flame Red	£7695	09 09	INSIGNIA EXCLUSIV 1.8 5DR Sovereign Silver	£10995	03 03	FORD FIESTA LX 1.2 5DR Silver	£3495
08 08	ASTRA SXI 1.6 3DR Panacotta	£7995	10 10	INSIGNIA SRI 1.8 5DR Black Sapphire	£14495	04 04	FORD FIESTA ZETEC 1.4 5DR Metallic Blue	£3995
05 55	ASTRA VXR 2.0 3DR Flame Red	£9495	09 59	INSIGNIA SRI 4X4 2.0 5DR Black Sapphire	£15495	04 54	FORD KA LUXE 1.3 2DR Black	£3495
09 59	ASTRA ACTIVE SPORTS HATCH 1.4 3DR Sovereign Silver	£9995	10 60	INSIGNIA EXCLUSIV 130PS 2.0 5DR Technical Grey	£16495	02 52	FORD MONDEO LX 1.8 5DR Silver	£2995
10 10	ASTRA SPORTS HATCH 1.4 3DR Red	£10995	10 60	INSIGNIA SPORTS TOURER EXCLUSIV 2.0 5DR Technical Grey	£19495	04 54	PEUGEOT 206 STYLE DIESEL 1.4 3DR Red	£3995
10 60	ASTRA SRI 1.4 3DR Sovereign Silver	£11495	MERIVA SELECTION			01 51	RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.4 3DR Grey	£2995
10 10	ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.6 5DR Technical Grey	£11995	08 08	MERIVA CLUB 1.4 5DR Air Blue	£7250	04 53	RENAULT MEGANE EXPRESSION 1.4 5DR Blue	£3275
10 60	ASTRA SRI SPORTS HATCH 1.6 3DR White	£11995	10 60	MERIVA SETBO 1.4 5DR Pepperdust	£14995	02 02	SEAT IBIZA TO 1.9 D 3DR Red	£3345
08 08	ASTRA VXR 2.0 3DR Arden Blue	£12495	10 60	MERIVA EXCLUSIV TBO 1.4 5DR Star Silver	£14995	COMMERCIAL VEHICLES SELECTION		
10 10	ASTRA SRI TBO 1.4 5DR Black Sapphire	£13995	10 60	MERIVA EXCLUSIV CDTI 1.7D 5DR Waterworld	£16995	10 60	ASTRAVAN SPORTIVE 1.7D 3DR Star Silver	£11995+VAT
10 59	ASTRA VXR 2.0 3DR Arden Blue	£15995	VECTRA SELECTION			10 10	COMBO CDTI 1.3 5DR White	£7495+VAT
CORSA SELECTION			08 58	VECTRA DESIGN 2.2 5DR Ultra Blue	£7495	10 10	COMBO VAN 1.2 5DR Glacier White	£8495+VAT
08 08	CORSA BREEZE 1.2 5DR Black Sapphire	£6995	08 08	VECTRA SRI 1.8 5DR Pomegranate Red	£8250	10 60	COMBO VAN 1.3 5DR Star Silver or White	£9495+VAT
08 58	CORSA BREEZE +1.2 5DR Red	£7495	08 58	VECTRA SRI NAV X PACK AUTO CDTI 1.9D 5DR Star Silver	£9495	10 60	COMBO VAN 1.4 4DR Star Silver	£9995+VAT
08 08	CORSA SRI TBO 1.6 3DR Black Sapphire	£8495	ZAFIRA SELECTION			08 08	CORSAVAN SPORTIVE 1.3 5DR Star Silver	£6995+VAT
09 09	CORSA DESIGN 1.4 5DR Black Sapphire	£8995	03 53	ZAFIRA CLUB 1.8 5DR Ultra Blue	£3695	10 60	CORSAVAN 1.3 3DR White	£8495+VAT
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR White or Silver Lightning	£8995	07 57	ZAFIRA CLUB E/T 1.6 5DR Black Sapphire	£7695	10 60	CORSAVAN SPORTIVE 1.3 3DR Star Silver	£9995+VAT
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Black Sapphire	£9495	08 08	ZAFIRA BREEZE 1.6 5DR Silver Lightning	£7995	10 60	VIVARO DOUBLE CAB SPORTIVE LWB 2.0 5DR Star Silver	£15995+VAT
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Flame Red or White	£9495	08 08	ZAFIRA BREEZE 1.6 5DR Metro Blue	£8495	10 10	VIVARO LWB 2.0 5DR Glacier White	£10995+VAT
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Star Silver or Metro Blue	£9495	09 59	ZAFIRA ACTIVE PLUS 1.8 5DR Ultra Blue	£11995			
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Metro Blue	£9995						
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.3 3DR Oriental Blue	£9995						
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Waterworld	£9995						
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR White	£9995						

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P O M P H R E Y S A L W A Y S S O M E T H I N G E X T R A

FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



Peugeot opens up order books for diesel hybrid

FRENCH carmaker Peugeot is now taking orders for its 3008 Hybrid4 – claimed to be the world's first full diesel hybrid car.

First deliveries in October will be of a £29,995 Limited Edition model – just 35 vehicles will be available in the UK.

The Hybrid4 combines a fuel-efficient 2.0-litre HDi 163bhp diesel engine and a 37bhp electric motor – offering out-of-town fuel consumption of 74.4 mpg, and CO2 emissions of 99g/km.

This special version also comes with tinted headlamps and integral chrome LED daylight running lights, a Pearl White body colour and chrome door handles.

Internally, exclusive touches include two-tone leather trim, all-leather facia and numbered aluminium plate on the centre console. A full-length panoramic glass roof and front parking sensors complete a luxury spec.

The overall 3008 Hybrid4 range will start at £26,600.

Proton reduces Satria Neo prices



PROTON has slashed prices for its ageing yet stylish Satria Neo sporting hatchback – buyers can save a staggering £1,700 now that the range starts at £8,495.

The Satria Neo features electric windows, reverse parking sensors and rear spoiler all as standard, plus a centre-mounted exhaust and race-inspired bucket seats, ABS and twin airbags.

Even the flagship 1.6 Sport auto is a snip at £10,295, down from £11,995.

Proton's UK chief, Simon Park, said: "We are confident that this price revision will prove popular with motorists. Both stylish and sporty thanks to its Lotus ride and handling, the Satria Neo is eye catching on the road and is fantastic to drive."

JAGUAR has unveiled its most potent production car ever – the all-new XKR-S.

It has an uprated supercharged V8 engine, overhauled suspension and a new aerodynamically-driven design, to make it the quickest Jag ever but also the lowest CO2 emitter in its class (300g/km) despite generating 550bhp and offering a top speed of 186mph and 0-60mph in 4.2 seconds.


Bespoke suspension changes to the front and rear are said to improve precision, control and driver appeal, while a reprogrammed Adaptive Dynamics system allows the enthusiastic driver to explore the full range of handling.

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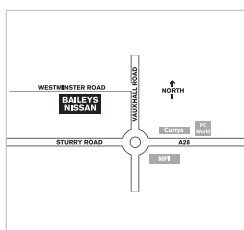
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*Refers to EXTRA URBAN fuel consumption figures – based on Micra 1.2 with manual transmission on a full tank of petrol. †Model shown is Micra 1.2 Tekna manual priced at £12,350 on the road plus optional metallic paint at £400 inc VAT. Information correct at time of going to press. Models subject to availability. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.

Fuel consumption figures for Nissan MICRA Range: CO₂ 125-115g/km – URBAN 42.2-46.3mpg/6.7-6.1L/100km – EXTRA URBAN 61.4-65.7mpg/4.6-4.3L/100km – COMBINED 52.3-56.5mpg/5.4-5.0L/100km.

Revolutionary Lexus breaks cover quietly in the county

by
STEVELOADER

LEXUS dealers in Kent have celebrated the 'quiet revolution' – the arrival of the Japanese premium brand's all-new CT200h executive hatchback hybrid.

The car is being touted as a mould-breaker for its target sector, where it can attack the BMW 1-Series, Audi A3 and up-spec VW Golf and even nuzzle at the bigger BMW 3-Series and its rivals by offering an economical and highly attractive tax-efficient solution for company car user choosers.

The secret is the petrol-electric hybrid system and the kind of dynamic rear-wheel drive handling experience that its everyday front-driven Toyota hybrid sibling, the Prius, cannot match.

Compact

It also helps that the marketing drive for this compact model is being spearheaded by compact superstar Kylie Minogue – usually pictured in the Lexus ads holding a finger to her lips to emphasise the 'Join the quiet revolution' strapline.

With a powertrain that can run in near silent electric mode, the CT200h certainly



ENTHUSIASM: Launch weekend was well attended, with around 200 visitors to Lexus Canterbury. Centre manager Paul Stapylton (inset) said he expected the CT200h (above) to put Lexus back on the map with buyers

offers a revolutionary option for executive car buyers.

It is also stamped with all the Lexus hallmarks: exemplary build quality, loads of standard kit and a real premium feel to the interior; and it is no wonder that there was genuine enthusiasm at the launch weekend held by Motorline Group's two Kent dealers,

Lexus Canterbury and Lexus Tunbridge Wells.

Some 200 people attended the event at Canterbury, where centre manager Paul Stapylton expected the CT200h to put Lexus back on the map with buyers – the brand's volumes have suffered against German rivals during the recession.

"This car is going to bring back the volume

for Lexus and we fully expect to struggle to match demand with supply," he said.

Paul, who recently took over the post at the Broad Oak Road site after being based at Motorline's nearby Renault centre, added: "This is also a really exciting time to be involved with Lexus, which is pushing the boundaries back on quality and technology."

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DrivingReview

by
STEVE LOADER

Audi A1

FOR a small car, much is riding on the newly-arrived Audi A1.

Firstly, it marks the debut of the A1 model number and must be 'A1' to counter any perceptions that a downsized Audi dilutes premium qualities the German brand has worked so hard to create.

Secondly, the car must battle the retro appeal of BMW's hugely popular Mini and the temptingly cheaper Fiat 500. Audi has no appropriate retro small car heritage to call upon, but it would have been nice perhaps to see more design cues from the brand's TT coupe transferred to the new baby, but the A1's styling does at least leave no doubt about who makes it.

It also has a stunning cabin, with lots of aeronautical design features such as the jet intake air vents and chunky knobs. Quality is both visual and tangible with top-notch materials adding to Audi's claim to have "shrink-wrapped everything it stands for" to create the A1.

And that goes for the on-road experience too, because the A1 feels every bit as solid and refined as its bigger sisters.

It is also practical, with the rear hatch opening to a decent boot, while slight headroom restriction from the raked rear roofline is more than compensated by decent kneeroom – a point not lost on buyers weighing the A1 against the Mini.

Remember too that many small cars are bought as a family runabout and now that kids must use booster seats – seemingly, until they go to university – a lack of kneeroom can affect them as much as adults.

Shrink-wrapped A1 has preserved Audi quality



On the other hand, many premium brand or highly-specified small cars are bought to show-off and there are pros and cons here for the A1.

Prices start from an attractive £13,420, but the A1 really does need the kit – good alloys, good paint job, etc – to look the part. Even that customisation king, the Mini – which pioneered how to sell a car to a customer and

then so much more on top – looks great with just a few extras.

In many ways, the Fiat 500 is even more challenging: it's cheaper anyway and a relatively modest spend transforms it into a designer baby car. However, the Fiat's ownership experience, quality and comfort highlights the old adage "you get what you pay for".

Which leaves the A1 going head to head with the Mini, where it wins on practicality even if it loses out on retro appeal.

It also offers a good driving experience judging by our 121bhp 1.4TFSI Sport test car, fitted with Audi's S Tronic version of the excellent VW Group twin-clutch gearbox, which really can be driven as a manual as well as an auto

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Representative example

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Total amount payable	£27,624.19
Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	5.10%
Term	36 months

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CT 200h prices start from £23,485 OTR. Model shown CT 200h SE-I costing £23,995 including optional metallic paint at £510. Price correct at time of going to print and includes VAT, delivery, number plates, full tank of fuel, one year's road fund license and £55 first registration fee. †9.9% Representative APR over 3 years on Lexus Connect Contract. Purchase available on all new retail CT 200h SE-I, when registered and financed through Lexus Financial Services Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ at participating Lexus Centres, valid until 31 March 2011. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Vehicle on sale from March 2011. Terms and conditions apply. Excess mileage charge applies over 30,000 at 9 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services. Subject to availability.

CT 200h fuel consumption and CO₂ figures: urban 68.9 mpg (4.1L/100km), extra-urban 70.6 mpg (4.0L/100km), combined 68.9 mpg (4.1L/100km). CO₂ emissions combined 94 g/km.



though it adds nearly £1,500 to the cost of the test model (£17,120).

However, this extra makes the little Audi a good upmarket urban runabout for weekdays as well as a refined and stylish car to get away in at weekends – a perfect solution for young professionals.

Handling is top notch; this is a sure-footed little car and manual mode means it can be driven hard using the shift or wheel-mounted paddles, until the point when you meet traffic and

simply knock the selector across into auto.

Turbocharging is seamless and the power output would seem about right for this car, though wealthy hooligans can opt for the scorching 185ps (183bhp) TFSI S Line S Tronic (£20,705).

The brilliance of our particular version though is that, despite its sportiness, it should average around 55mpg, while CO2 emissions of 119g/km CO2 mean an escape from road tax in year one and a modest £30/year thereafter – impressive for a turbocharged hot hatch.



DrivingPortfolio

AUDI A1 1.4TFSI SPORT S TRONIC £17,120

Driving appeal (OUT OF FIVE)	★★★★
Image	★★★★
Space	★★★★
Value	★★★
Reliability	★★★★
Road tax	£30/year (zero year one)
Best rival	BMW Mini

TheVerdict

- DON'T LIKE:** the price – the A1's younger targets might prefer the more affordable and retro Fiat 500
- NOT SURE:** the A1 can really match the Mini and Fiat 500 for retro appeal
- REALLY LIKE:** how Audi has distilled the essence of its premium branding into a small and stylish car

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07 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD vRS 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Multicolour Velour - Leather interior, 35,250 miles. £10,995

52 Plate. Skoda Octavia 1.8 vRS 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Diamond Silver Metallic with a Multicolour Partial Leather/metallic Mesh Cloth interior, 91,350 miles. £3,995

08 Plate. Skoda Roomster 1.4 16V 2 5-Dr MPV

Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 33,335 miles. £7,795

10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 (70 BHP) S 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Green Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 2,771 miles. £9,495

10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 (70 BHP) SE 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in White Mica Two Tone with a Black Cloth interior, 14,150 miles. £9,295

09 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 10,700 miles. £8,995

*Correct at time of going to press.



08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.6 16V (105 BHP) 5-Dr Estate
Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 27,250 miles. £8,795

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 3 1.9 TDI PD (105 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Anthracite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 26,181 miles. £8,495

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

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08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 16V (85 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Black Metallic Two Tone with a Black Cloth interior, 25,100 miles. £7,295

10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Grey Cloth interior, 9,500 miles. £6,995

07 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic, 22,500 miles. £6,995

07 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 16,400 miles. £6,795

58 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,495

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 26,875 miles. £6,295

56 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Elegance (100 HP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Graphite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 22,500 miles. £4,995

53 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Elegance (100 HP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 28,750 miles. £3,795

Other Makes

56 Plate. Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI Sport (140 PS) 5-Dr

Finished in Steel Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 80,100 miles. £8,995

54 Plate. Honda Civic 2.0 Type S 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Nighthawk Black Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 47,800 miles. £5,795

04 Plate. Ford Galaxy 1.9 TDI Zetec (115 PS) 5-Dr MPV

Finished in Black Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 10,510 miles. £5,795

08 Plate. Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Metallic Machine Silver, 12,500 miles. £4,995

05 Plate Peugeot 1007 3 Door 1.4 HDi Dolce

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Investment bonds: Too good to be true?

Q Do you think the John Lewis savings bond will be a good investment? I am considering investing £1,000 for five years at 6.5pc as this is a far better interest rate than that offered by any of the banks.

A Unless you invested without waiting for my answer, I am afraid you have missed the boat. The department store group had planned to keep its investment offer open for a month, but closed it after just 11 days when money flooded in and the company raised all of the £50m it wanted. I will answer your question, though, because there are similar bonds on the market. Yes, this was a good investment, because I believe John Lewis is a safe company. This is important, since bonds issued by companies are not the same as bank accounts. They are just IOUs, and if the company turns out not to be safe, there is no compensation scheme to come to the rescue. And remember, bonds are a stock market investment, so their value can fall. For all these reasons, unless you know exactly what you are doing and accept the risks, it might be a good idea to avoid bonds issued by a single company. Instead, consider a fund that spreads your money across a number of bonds from different companies to reduce the risks. The Rathbone Ethical Bond Fund (020 7399 0399) holds more than 80 different bonds, with just over 60pc of the fund's money going into UK companies such as Nationwide, Standard Life and Bupa. It yields about 7.2pc. Or take a look at the Aberdeen Corporate Bond Income Fund (0845 300 2890). It puts its money into 140 different bonds, with less emphasis on the financial sector than Rathbone. The yield is 5.36pc. Because these are stock market investments, you can also buy them through a broker, an advisor or a bank's investment department.

Q I used to have a cashback credit card from Nationwide that repaid me a percentage of everything I spent on the card. Nationwide scrapped it some time ago, but I still think cashback is a good idea. Do any other cards offer this?

A Although some have been withdrawn, you can still get a card that pays you cash for every £1 you spend. MBNA (0800 068 8788) recently launched an American Express card that pays 0.75pc cashback on most purchases, but this rises to 1.5pc when you shop at most major supermarkets and when you fill up with petrol. Or if your credit record is not exactly good, and you have had a few problems in the past, consider the Barclaycard Initial card (www.barclaycard.co.uk). It offers cashback of up to 1pc, depending on where you shop. The main conditions are that you must be over 18 and must have an annual income of at least £10,000. But remember

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with all cashback cards topay off your balance in full every month. There is no sense in getting a modest cashback and pay 19pc interest on what you have spent!

Q I have two young grandchildren and I would like to invest £1,000 each for them in something completely safe that will grow into a nest egg for when they are older. Please do not suggest anything to do with stocks and shares.

A National Savings & Investments is about as safe as you can get, as it is backed by the treasury, and it offers two schemes you might like. The first is the Children's Bonus Bond. The minimum investment is £25 and the maximum is £3,000 per child. Invest for five years and your money grows at an annual 2.5pc, tax free. The child cannot control the bond until he or she reaches at least 16, and the investment can carry on until age 21. The other possibility is premium bonds. There is no guarantee, of course, but you could make your grandchildren rich! Bonds can be bought for a child by a parent, a guardian, a grandparent or a great-grandparent.

Q Can you find out what has happened to Claimback UK? It handles claims against credit card companies.

A Claims management companies are licensed by the Ministry of Justice, which suspended Claimback's licence in January. No reason has been given. Unless and until the suspension ends, the company cannot act for you against any card firm.

Q Please settle a small family dispute. If someone dies without leaving a will, and the only relatives are two grown-up children, are the savings and property shared equally or does the first born child take a larger share? Does it make any difference if one of the adult children is male and the other female?

A If someone dies intestate – without a will – and with no other relatives except two grown-up children, those children share everything equally. It makes no difference which was born first, or whether they are male or female.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.



LOSING BATTLE: Savers are suffering as inflation rose to 4.4pc in February.

Savings are hit as inflation balloons

The pain on savers has been increased as inflation balloons out of control.

It was announced this week that the consumer prices index (CPI) rate hit 4.4pc in February, up from 4pc a month earlier, thanks to increases in the price of fuel, food and clothing.

As well as the cost of living going up, savers are coming under pressure, with their nest eggs losing even more value in real terms.

It will disproportionately affect older people, who often rely on their savings to boost their retirement income.

"The continual rise in inflation compounds the misery of pensioners

By ADAM AIKEN
MyMoney24 editor

relying on savings to supplement their income," said Sylvia Waycot, a spokesman for Moneyfacts.co.uk.

She added: "People trying to save deposits for their first homes will see inflation eating into their hard-earned savings faster than it grows, unless they seek out the few accounts that can keep pace with inflation."

"Over the past six months, the number of savings accounts that beat inflation for basic-rate taxpayers has dropped successively from 118 to only eight today, all of which are fixed-rate Isas."

The latest CPI figure means that a basic-rate taxpayer needs to find a savings account paying interest at 5.5pc simply to keep pace with inflation while a higher-rate taxpayer needs an account paying at least 7.3pc.

Economists had been expecting a February figure slightly lower than 4.4pc and, more importantly, CPI is now more than double the Bank of England's target of 4pc.

Many observers expect CPI to keep rising over the next few months, leading to a greater chance of interest rate rises being implemented sooner rather than later.

Women ruling roost in family finances

Women are most likely to be in control of the family finances in UK households.

While men continue to be the primary income earners in the majority of families, research by M&S Money has revealed it is women who are most likely to be in charge of the purse strings.

While 59pc of people think women are better than men at running household finances, 61pc of women say they prefer to be in control

of family budgets.

Although the gender pay gap is narrowing, on average men still tend to earn 10pc more than women and there are 10pc more men in employment than women.

The findings about who takes financial control at home are in contrast with gender roles in the previous generation.

Then, 55pc of people said it was their fathers who were the financial heads of the household when they

were growing up.

Colin Kersley, chief executive of M&S Money, said: "Although men remain the main income earners in the majority of families, it seems that it is women who hold the purse strings when it comes to the family finances."

"These findings firmly put the myth of the father as the financial head of the family to rest as the changing responsibilities within British households are revealed."

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

HIGH-speed train services to a host of top European destinations could soon be on offer after a Channel Tunnel safety dispute was resolved successfully.

The deal could see trains run from Kent to Amsterdam, Switzerland and Frankfurt, among other tourist hot-spots.

Kent tourism bosses said the move could lead to a 40 per cent increase in visitor numbers.

SIMON ROBINSON

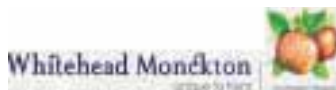
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By JOE BILL

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CHANCELLOR George Osborne has targeted growth for businesses with his latest Budget.

On Wednesday he announced a series of measures aimed at boosting enterprise, including a further cut to corporation tax and an extension of plans to set up enterprise zones in some of the most deprived areas of England.

The 21 new enterprise areas will benefit from relaxed planning laws and discounted business rates in an attempt to encourage the creation of jobs.

Mr Osborne told the Commons: "Last year's emergency Budget was about rescuing the nation's finances and paying for the mistakes of the past. Today's Budget is about reforming the nation's economy so we have enduring growth and jobs in the future."

The most prominent statistic to come out of Mr Osborne's speech was that next month's 4p rise in fuel duty had been cancelled. Instead, 1p per litre will be cut from pump prices, paid for by a £2 billion tax on oil companies.

He said: "It's about doing what we can to help families with the cost of living and high oil price."

There was also a freeze on alcohol duty and air travel duty, but tobacco tax was increased by 2 per cent. During his hour-long speech, Mr Osborne said he wanted the UK to be the "best place in Europe to start, finance and grow a business".



Osborne's Budget goes for growth

This will include streamlining the system for planning applications and introducing fast-track planning for major infrastructure. A sum of £100 million will be invested in science capital development, as well as double the lifetime limit for entrepreneurs' relief to £10m.

And for young people getting into work there will be funds available for 50,000 additional apprenticeship places in the next four years.

The Chancellor did, however, reveal that he expected Britain's economy to grow at a slower rate than previously estimated, with the Office

For Budgetary Responsibility cutting its growth forecast for 2011 from 2.1 to 1.7 per cent.

The housing market has also been targeted as the Budget pledged £250m to help 10,000 first-time buyers purchase newly-built homes.

The buyer would have to put up 5 per cent of the cost, while the Government and home-builder would both put up 10 per cent, to try to boost the construction industry.

"This will not end the pressure on family budgets, but we've done what we can to help," said Mr Osborne.

REACTION TO THE BUDGET

cutting red tape, but we believe new employment laws will still come into force in this year, which could hinder businesses from taking on staff. The biggest opportunity missing from this Budget is by not extending the NICs holiday nationwide to existing businesses, which would really have provided incentives for small firms to take on more staff.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway

THE increase of 2 per cent above inflation in beer tax is ruinous to the nation's local brewing sector, ignores its contribution to the economy and puts thousands of jobs in breweries and pubs in jeopardy.

This is a real kick in the teeth to the local brewing sector, one of the few British success stories of recent years. Local brewers are just the kind of business this government says it wants to see prosper. They create jobs and contribute to the local and wider economy by using homegrown ingredients. Yet the current taxation regime is killing off our main route to market – the pub.

The Treasury claimed before the Budget the beer duty escalator is 'baked in'. We say it is half-baked. Continuing to increase taxes on draught beer will serve only to increase purchases of cheap vodka for unsupervised home consumption. We fail to see how this policy can help tackle binge-drinking.

Eddie and Lois Gadd, The Ramsgate Brewery

WE WELCOME the raft of supply side measures announced in the Budget. The combination of reduced corporation tax and planning liberalisation will help to lift business confidence at a difficult time. However, the scale of deregulation in areas that really matter to business in general, such as employment law, is still very limited. And while the 21 new enterprise zones have real potential, we question why the whole of the UK can't be an enterprise zone.

This was a Budget aimed at changing perceptions and boosting business confidence about long-term economic prospects. The Chancellor didn't have much money to play with, but he played his hand well.

Miles Templeman, IoD director general

FOR a Government committed to being 'the greenest ever', the Budget failed to ignite the forthcoming Green Deal programme to retrofit homes. No additional incentives such as a cut in VAT for energy-efficient repairs, stamp duty or council tax were announced to make Britain's homes greener and more energy-efficient.

The Chancellor missed an opportunity to support the Green Deal and kick-start consumer demand to make our homes greener.

Without creating demand in the market for energy-efficient improvement, it is difficult to see how the Green Deal will succeed when it starts in the autumn of 2012. Help for

the house-building industry by the introduction of a Government-backed shared-equity scheme to help 10,000 first-time buyers is a welcome boost, but it is doubtful whether it will help the tens of thousands of small house-builders who are struggling to survive.

The announcement to simplify the planning system is long overdue as this, coupled with the lack of finance, is stifling the industry which is delivering half the amount of homes that we need every year to meet demand.

The announcement that there is to be no new regulation on firms with fewer than 10 staff for three years is welcome news.

However, it would be helpful if the Government could go further and cut existing red tape on small businesses. The Budget will help many small businesses, but far more still needs to be done to bring about a full recovery.

Richard Diment, director general, Federation of Master Builders

THE Budget sets out measures that will support strong and sustainable private-sector growth, reform the economy and tax system and help people in the South East to make ends meet in these difficult times.

It takes affordable action to reduce fuel prices while raising the threshold at which people start paying tax, taking a further 260,000 people out of income tax altogether and reducing the tax paid by 25 million people by an average of £48.

Danny Alexander, Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Comment

AS A taxpayer, I winced upon hearing that London had been chosen to host the 2012 Olympic Games. On the monetary front, we do not have great form in building multi-million-pound venues, with both the Millennium Dome and Wembley Stadium coming in hugely over budget.

France managed to knock up the Stade de France without breaking the bank. And there are plenty of other examples of countries across the globe that can be trusted to build what's on the blueprint with relative ease.

Sadly, we British cannot. The Dome came in £204 million over budget and it is far from the exception to the rule. But it's not just the big projects we seem to fudge. Remember the Millennium Bridge fiasco?

So what chance have we got of building a whole Olympic Village without incurring huge losses on top of the millions already earmarked out of our taxes?

On a related national-pride front, even if we somehow get past the construction stage unscathed, we must remember the show Beijing put on in 2008.

It was spectacular from start to finish. Even the normally tedious opening and closing ceremonies were worth watching, carried out with almost military precision.

Yes, the Chinese threw billions into their Games, but on finance alone there is no way we can compete with that and are therefore doomed to failure by comparison.

However, I welcome the Olympics to London with open arms.

The Games will have a huge impact on Kent, bringing tens of thousands of visitors to and through the county.

This will give Kent businesses an immediate boost, but we must make sure we are ready to capitalise on the long-term financial opportunities the Games have given us by ensuring we can entice these sports fans back. Businesses should follow the Olympic athletes' lead by making sure they're in the best possible shape come the main event.

SIMON ROBINSON, Business Editor
Twitter: @KOSbusiness

Pennywise parents can bank on kids learning to save

TWO fathers from Thanet have designed a pocket-money management activity for children aimed at helping in their financial education, *writes Joe Bill*.

Pocket Pound was created by Scott Gavin, an IT consultant, and his business partner to help youngsters understand the banking system.

Aimed at four- to 11-year-olds, Pocket Pound is designed to teach children to save and earn rewards for saving.

The Pocket Pound pack includes pages where you can list specific chores with different prices, cheques for your child to 'cash' with mum or dad, and statement pages so they can manage their money as if they have a real bank account.

Demand came from other parents when one of the children took the prototype to school, so the inventors got behind the idea as a venture.

Mr Gavin said: "Banks, interest and tax are rather abstract concepts to children, so we created a paper-based banking activity where the parent plays the role of the bank and the child becomes the saver."

Pocket Pound consists of a durable wire-bound booklet with an agreement between the child and adult around the payment of pocket money.

It also consists of rate cards to define jobs and reasons for being paid pocket money, while job cards track how much has been earned, minus 'tax'.

Children can also keep hold of their bank-account statements and pretend cheques to cut out, colour in and



POCKET POUND: A teaching aid for children's finance

exchange for cash. Mr Gavin said: "It may sound complicated on the surface, but it's really simple."

"Rather than physically paying pocket money, the parent acts as the bank and simply records the amounts in the Pocket Pound booklet."

"You can then start to track extra chores around the house, incorporate interest on positive bank balances and start to explore the concepts of income tax and debt."

Children are also handed a pretend credit card and credit-card statements as part of the pack. For more information, visit www.pocketpound.com.

Apprenticeship boom time

RECESSION-HIT construction companies are being urged to invest in apprentices ahead of an expected boom in the industry.

Latest Construction Skills Network figures show the rate of growth in the South East sector is expected to rise by 2.2 per cent a year over the next five years – up on the UK average of just 1 per cent.

The Industry Training Board and Sector Skills Council responded to the positive forecast by urging employers of all sizes to recognise construction apprentices as a crucial resource and to help young people enter the industry to avoid losing skills and talent to other sectors.

One company that has already

developed an apprentice programme is the Cathedral Works Organisation (CWO), a historic-buildings contractor with management team and skilled employees based in Kent.

Training coordinator Cathy O'Brien said increased competition in the market had made pre-qualification for tenders more rigorous, further increasing the value of apprenticeships.

"Apprenticeship programmes are now a key consideration under the pre-qualification process," she said.

"They feature additional questions, asking if a company has an apprentice programme, how many apprentices they have and how much they spend on training."

In September, the firm took on two new apprentices: 24-year-old Ian Knowles and 29-year-old Ed Shaw.

Both had previously been studying for a diploma in stonemasonry at college but recognised they needed work experience to increase their employment chances and so joined CWO.

Knowles said: "I am enjoying getting to grips with the tools and improving my skills. College doesn't really prepare you for the workshop."

"You really learn a lot from working next to people, seeing how quickly people work and the standard of work needed. You can't really learn this in a classroom."

O'Brien said the apprenticeship route, while at first costly and time-consuming, had many advantages.

"We find our apprentices are keen to develop their careers as skilled

craftsmen with us, rather than going elsewhere," she said.

"We have a good retention rate, which can be clearly seen by our contracts manager, Richard Mitchell, who has been with us since 1965."

"Taking on apprentices also means we can train them the CWO way and maintain our standards. It is more difficult to retrain someone from elsewhere."

"With up to six apprentices working for us at any one time, it is a significant investment in both time and money."

"However, we have built our reputation on the quality of our staff and so it is an investment we will continue to make."



IAN KNOWLES: Developing skills



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CHARTERED accountants and business advisors J Cleverdon Ltd will be renamed Cleverdons from next month.

The Broadstairs business will launch the new identity on Wednesday, April 6. A spokesman said: "The rebranding reflects J Cleverdon Ltd's commitment to improving its services to the business community. The company has become increasingly aware that clients often need further management support and business advice."

In addition to the company's core business of accountancy and tax, the rebranded Cleverdons also has business advisory services which include strategic planning, management support and financial-management coaching.

RESTAURATEUR Rezaul Raja was honoured at a seminar and dinner at the House of Commons in recognition of his contribution to the British economy.

The businessman, who owns the Raja of Kent restaurants in Tenterden and Maidstone and Mouchak restaurant in St Michael's, was invited to London by the Development Council For Bangladesh In The UK.

Congratulating the winners, Labour leader Ed Miliband highlighted the "big role in promoting the vital economic, social, cultural and political work done by so many Bangladeshis in this country."

Mr Raja said: "It's a great honour to receive such recognition and a testament to the dedication of my chefs and front-of-house teams."

KENT County Council's Olympics chief, Stephanie Holt, will deliver a speech at a business breakfast next week. The 2012 manager will speak to delegates about the impact of the Olympics in Kent.

With up to 45 training camps in the county and Ebbsfleet station forecasting up to 10,000 passengers per hour, Holt has been charged with bringing private and public-sector bodies together to maximise the legacy to Kent. The event is at Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham, on Thursday, March 31, from 7.30am to 9am.

Email conferencesales@priestfield.com or phone 01634 300000 for more information.

A BUSINESS breakfast is being held at the Turner Contemporary on Tuesday. The Margate gallery is hosting the event in a bid to engage with local businesses ahead of the attraction's grand opening next month.

Margate Renewal Partnership director Derek Harding said: "Having a world-famous gallery in town will increase visitor numbers, which will have an impact on local businesses. I hope anyone with a business in the area will take this opportunity to find out more."

The breakfast is particularly aimed at businesspeople based in Margate, Cliftonville and Westbrook. It runs from 7am to 8.30am.

Those wishing to attend should email sharon.sebastian@thanet.gov.uk or phone 01843 577182.

INTERNATIONAL delivery firm GBA Services has expanded into Kent. The company has set up its South East distribution hub at Montpelier Business Park, Ashford, a move expected to create 35 jobs.

The depot will handle high-priority shipments using the company's Time Critical Division and also specialise in serving pharmaceutical-industry clients using its GDP Pharma Logistics operation.

Depot manager Mike Candela said: "From Ashford we have unrivalled links to Europe, making it quicker, more cost-effective and greener for us to get our vehicles in and out of the UK."

Extra destinations give light at end of Tunnel

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

PLANS to run high-speed trains to a range of favoured European destinations are within touching distance of being agreed after a dispute over safety was resolved.

It could mean a 40 per cent increase in the number of passengers travelling through Europe on Eurostar, with new route options opening up to places such as Amsterdam, Switzerland, Frankfurt and the Côte d'Azur in France.

Popular

For Kent, the move could create a significant boost in tourism, with a potential rise in visits by our Continental neighbours.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, the chief executive of tourism board Visit Kent, said the county was already popular with visitors from Germany and The Netherlands.

"This would make it even simpler for them to come and enjoy a short break or longer stay with us," she said.

"We already work closely with tourism providers in both countries and this would strengthen our partnerships considerably."

She continued: "Fast-train services to destinations across mainland Europe will open up new destinations and markets."

Currently, French company Eurostar is only able to run high-speed trains to Brussels and



ON TRACK: More European destinations are moving within reach of high-speed rail

Paris from London, stopping at Ashford International and Ebbsfleet, due to a dispute over safety regulations.

In October, German rail operator Deutsche Bahn expressed an interest in running trains from London through Europe and to Frankfurt, just as Eurostar announced it was looking to buy 10 new trains from Siemens to add to its existing stock.

But French safety regulators stated that the only trains able to travel safely through the Channel Tunnel were those with motors and electrical equipment concentrated in power cars at either end of the locomotive – like those used on the Brussels and Paris trains.

Tunnel operator Eurotunnel, however, argued the new trains, which have electric motors under the floor of each carriage, were safe to run in the Tunnel. The ongoing dispute meant that rail authorities in Europe had to intervene.

A report released on Monday by the European Railway Agency found there was no basis to discriminate between the two designs, leaving the French state-owned operator SNCF, which controls Eurostar, able to buy the new stock.

Competitive

Eurotunnel spokesman John Keefe said it meant new destinations could be rolled out, with an expected passenger increase of 40 per cent. "It's very good news all round," he said.

"We'll take a lot of business from airlines, and with Deutsche Bahn also hoping to launch new routes it will mean competitive rates for passengers as choice expands."

Mr Keefe said he was unsure of the exact timetable but said trains could potentially stop at Ashford International or Ebbsfleet.

"The next step is for the rule changes to be approved by the Channel Tunnel Inter-governmental Commission," he said.

"This report was part of a series of steps to try to get approval for these trains – it was the most key part."

"If it is approved, then we can start looking to operate to these destinations from 2013."

As well as Amsterdam, Geneva and the Côte d'Azur, passengers will be able to take advantage of seasonal trips to destinations such as Avignon in the south of France and the Alps.



MANY TANKS: Steve Bartholomew, left, and the team from JB Landscape with one of the water-storage tanks being installed

More flowing praise

JB LANDSCAPE has won a further environmental contract from its Kent Science Park co-tenant AmicusHorizon.

The firm was chosen to install underground water-storage tanks at Amicus sites throughout the Swale and Thames Gateway regions.

Managing partner Steve Bartholomew said: "These underwater tanks fill up from the houses' external guttering. Rainwater is channeled along the guttering and downspouts into the tanks."

"All we then have to do is attach a hosepipe and activate the simple pump mechanism and the rainwater, which would otherwise

have run into the soakaway, can be used to water gardens. It sounds obvious, but it's an extremely elegant system."

JB Landscape has further reason to celebrate after picking up two accreditations.

Mandy Bartholomew, Steve's wife and business partner, said: "This is a really exciting time for the company. We've been working towards these accreditations for two years and to see all that hard work paying off is very satisfying."

"We've always known all our work is carried out to the highest environmental and quality standards and now we have the documentation to prove it."

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Ian gets to grips with a

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THE BIG INTERVIEW

IT IS often the case that the best inventions are also the most simple.

I give more value to the development of the paper-clip and the Post-it note than I do to the iPod or its technologically superior big brother the iPad.

The internet tells me that a bright young spark at the Gem Manufacturing Company was the first in the world to cunningly bend a strip of wire several times in order to attach one or more pieces of paper together; and that Dr Spencer Silver was the genius who developed a "low-tack, reusable, pressure-sensitive adhesive", a scientific breakthrough now known as the Post-it.

Both inventors deserve to be remembered among the great minds of our times for their work in making office life a tiny bit easier for millions of people across the globe.

The iPod is brilliant – don't get me wrong – but it's the everyman factor of the paper-clip that particularly appeals to me.

Surely there's an existing product out there that I could improve and secure my millions?



TIGHT FIT: The Jubilee clip is everywhere

Sadly, my eureka moment is yet to arrive.

Commander Lumley Robinson had his in his shed in 1921. The retired naval officer – a constant tinkerer – developed the Jubilee worm-drive hose clip.

His self-titled firm, L. Robinson and Company, now produces tens of millions of the small metal clips each year and exports them as far afield as the Middle East and Japan.

The company's co-managing directors are

The great-grandson of the inventor of the Jubilee clip now oversees their production – shipping out tens of millions of the clasps each year. Ian Jennings has taken up the position of co-managing director of Gillingham-based firm L. Robinson and Co, which celebrates its 90th anniversary this year.

The 26-year-old spoke to Business Week editor SIMON ROBINSON about how his tinkering great-grandfather came up with the clip in his garden shed and how the business now exports to countries as far afield as the Middle East and eastern Asia.



IAN JENNINGS

Lumley's granddaughter's husband, John Jennings, and great-grandson, Ian.

Ian, 26, explained how the clip went from invention to export product in just two years.

"At the time, the traditional method to fasten hoses was to take a strip of metal, drill a hole in each end, bend it round and put a nut and bolt through the top.

"After my great-grandfather retired, he

was a bit of a tinkerer and sat in his shed with some tools and fiddled with things.

"He thought there must be a way you could improve the fastening so you have something that does not require any work to build.

"He came up with the thread and the screw device, got a patent, then bought some steel and got engineers to make them.

"Then he went to London and went round to garages and asked if they wanted to buy a few. He sold them on the basis that they're cleaner and save time. It caught on quite well."

Ian took his place with the family firm, which celebrates its 90th anniversary this year, in 2006 after completing a law degree

at the University of Southampton.

At the company's Gillingham headquarters, I asked the young MD if he had proven his Jubilee clip credentials to the 130-strong workforce.

"You need to ask the guys who work here," he said. "I hope so, as we're all interdependent. I rely on them and they rely on me, so there has to be an element of trust.

"I'm sure there would have been people

saying "This is a clear case of nepotism", but family businesses are subject to that all the time. Time will tell whether or not my position is justified.

"I like to think that if I try my best and apply myself, then my appointment will be justified."

Ian first took up a position at the family firm more through chance than design. Having graduated in May 2006, he took on the company-secretary role just two months later.

"After I graduated I didn't have any real plans," he said.

"Like most students, I thought I'd have a normal summer and then focus on getting a job. I was not pushed into joining the firm as my family felt it was important for me to find my own way.

"But then the company secretary became

IAN JENNINGS: CV

EDUCATION

- 1991-95 – Fairview Junior School
- 1995-2001 – Rainham Mark Grammar School
- 2001-06 – University of Southampton

EMPLOYMENT

- Jubilee Clips (packing occasionally, but quite rarely, as discussed)
- Sutton Kilkhoff Boulding and Co (after-school admin, during A-levels)
- Berry Nicholls and Parsons Catering Hire (logistics and handling, summer work when at university and again during A-levels and GCSEs – this was ideal as it is a very seasonal business)
- Lawcomm Solicitors (fee-earner; sandwich year from university)
- L. Robinson & Co (Gillingham) and Jubilee Clips (acting company secretary 2006-07; company secretary 2007-11; managing director 2011)

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real world-beater

ill and had to take a lot of time off.

"At the time we were looking into buying a new building and moving from five properties into one, a task that is made more easy by having a law degree as I have experience dealing with surveyors and solicitors.

"So with my background it was a good fit. I was at a family garden barbecue and a neighbour said 'Why don't you go in and make yourself useful?'. So I did."

After learning the ropes of the business through taking on the secretarial and accountancy duties, Jennings was later made co-managing director alongside his father, a move he says has proved mutually beneficial.



TAKE A STAND: Ian Jennings (left) promoting his great-grandfather's invention

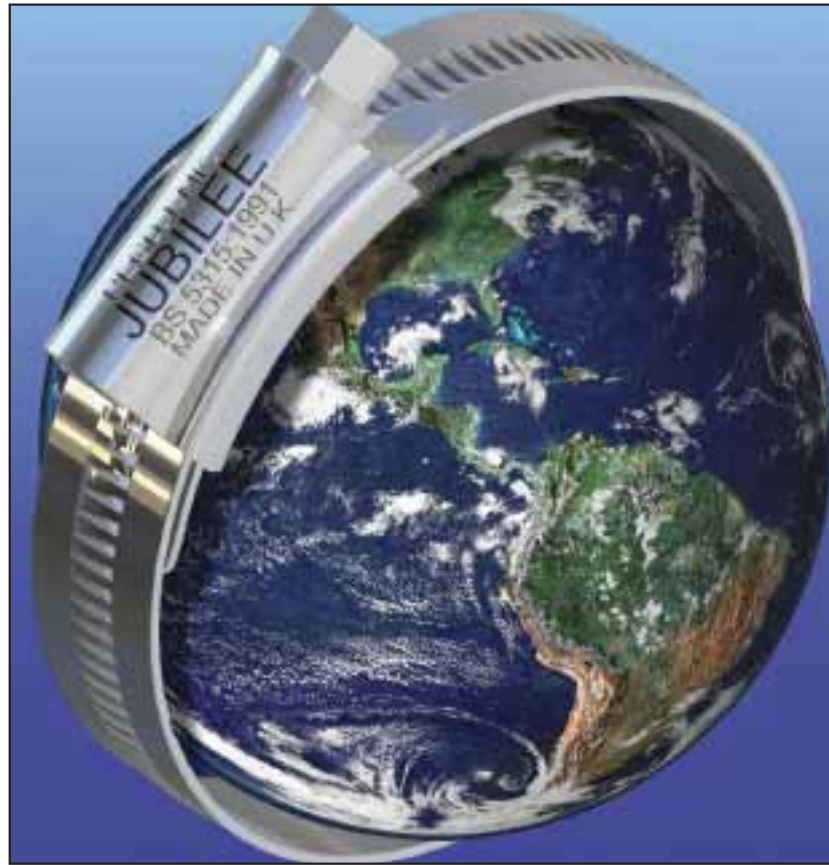
"I hope my dad finds it more relaxing having someone to share things with. We have quite a good relationship – it's probably better now we're working together."

Jennings has big plans for the firm.

"Why aim low? Michelangelo said aim high and miss, as it's much better than aiming low and never finding out what you could have achieved. We're an established company, but our market share is not huge because we're at the premium end of the market.

"There is scope to improve that by educating people who buy clips that our products are not just brand names – there's a quality aspect to it as well.

"There's also room to go further afield. There's a new world emerging, particularly in the Far East, where high-quality technical products are demanded."



Jennings has clearly worked hard in gaining an in-depth knowledge of both his family's business and the market in which it sits.

And he is keen to further extend his knowledge by getting his hands dirty on the shop floor.

The MD said: "I don't have any engineering background or training, but I'm very interested in that stuff, though.

"I can't operate every machine in the building and certainly not as well as our trained and experienced engineers, but it's important for me to have an understanding of how things work.

IAN'S TOP TIPS

- People are really important. "Picking good ones and maintaining good relationships with them has got to make sense and that is true with suppliers and customers as much as with staff."

- Maintain a positive attitude. "I am fairly sure that people and businesses with defeatist attitudes get defeated. Whatever may happen, I think it is important to take as many positives from any situation as possible."

- Focus on the basics. "For us, that means hose clips. Our customers come to us for hose clips, so that is the first thing we have to get right."

- Ask for help. "Whatever the subject, there will always be somebody who knows more about it, so ask them – you might learn something."

"It is often the case that when two people who know more than I do in the company come to me and want money for two different things I can only afford one.

"I need to be able to understand what it is they need the money for and then make an informed decision."

Jennings says his workforce gives the firm the advantage over its rivals.

"I have absolute supreme confidence in my staff. The fact the company has reached this age is all to do with their expertise and ability. The only lasting competitive advantage is knowledge, as that cannot be replicated.

"If the advantage was location, then rivals can move into your town. "If it's machinery, then they can buy it. It's people who make the difference. And without doubt we've got some great people here."



Networking banishes the gloom

DON'T listen to the merchants of gloom – there's never been a better time for local entrepreneurs to start up their own businesses.

The verdict comes from the Wealden Business Group, a Tenterden-based networking organisation whose members range from a plumber to a solicitor, from electrician to finance broker.

Group chairman Mike Parmar said: "If people who want to run their own businesses listen to the prophets of doom and the claims that banks aren't lending, they're sadly misinformed.

"We're finding it's a great time for start-ups. Two of our newest young members – a tree surgeon and a plumber – have started up since the recession began and are going great guns.

"And our banker members are being highly positive: if you have a good business plan, then they have money to lend."

Parmar, who runs telecoms consultancy Wave2 Communications from his home in Appledore, said: "I know plenty of people who have started up busi-



MIKE PARMAR: Positive outlook

nesses, many from their spare bedrooms, and they're doing very well.

"And there are members of our group who were thinking about retiring and

haven't, not because they can't afford to, but because there are so many good business opportunities out there."

However, Parmar stresses that new business start-ups need to be disciplined and professional about marketing, cash control and networking.

"People buy from people", he said. "For instance, there have been no fewer than 400 referrals between our 30 members in the past year. Put simply – networking works."

Wealden Business Group welcomes applications for membership from local businessmen and women. Visit www.wealden-business-group.co.uk or phone secretary Justin Nelson on 0844 880 4698 for more information.

The group, which meets each week at Little Silver Hotel, Tenterden, has guest speakers, organises trips – visits to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Canary Wharf and Port Lympne are on this year's schedule – and enjoy regular social occasions to raise funds for their nominated charity, The Caldecott Foundation at Smeeth, near Ashford.

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Kent
Business School

Masterful use of expertise from campus

By **SIMON ROBINSON**

simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

BUSINESS experts have been providing their consultancy services to small and medium-sized companies as part of their postgraduate qualification.

The Kent Masters in Business Administration (MBA) students offered their advice to eight firms across the county during Consultancy Week.

Simon Reed, producer of Rough Old Wife Cider, based in Old Wives Lees, near Canterbury, said he had benefited from the student service.

"The students delivered a very good overview of the cider business and spotted some elements of our business and its portrayal on the website – both deliberate and accidental – which could be sharpened up," he said.

"The students remarked on the lack of obvious Twitter connection from the website and this has already been addressed."

Jonathan Ryan, a wedding photographer from Canterbury, said: "The questions they

asked in the first five minutes made me realise this was going to be a useful day. At the presentation, I realised they had figured out stuff in three hours that I'd spent four years realising. There were genuinely new ideas that I'll be trialling which will hopefully increase business for me."

"The process went much deeper than I had expected and I found their interest in my business inspiring," said Annie McNamara, a copywriter from Tankerton.

"They asked perceptive questions and came up with very constructive suggestions relating to my research, pricing and website strategy."

The consultancy task was one of a range of networking activities the Kent Business School professionals will have to undertake to gain the MBA.

Students have also conducted a live economic impact study on the possibility of a new Kent airport at the request of the BBC.

MBA director Rajendra Shirolé said: "The possibility of a new airport in Kent has received much media coverage, so it is good to see Kent MBA students at Kent Business School working on a Live Economic Impact Study for the BBC as well as being involved in such a high-profile initiative for Kent."

"Their study involves identifying the econom-



EXPERT ADVICE: MBA students and Kent companies have collaborated to mutual benefit

ic benefits of a new airport in the region, and its contribution to the South East economy.

"It is just one of the projects undertaken as part of the Kent MBA programme which enables students to work with local and national organisations on some of their key projects, gaining a real and relevant insight into how their business is affected by current economic challenges and changes."

"The study also provides a collaborative approach for students to grow tangible business connections, gain a deeper understanding of the challenges the organisation faces, enrich their business knowledge and sharpen their leadership skills."

Kent MBA students will also be working on initiatives for Kent County Council as part of

their MBA project, which includes enterprises such as applying systems thinking in the public sector; social return on investment; and development of an email and internet usage policy, among several other projects scheduled for delivery between June and August.

Other Kent MBA students are working with the power generation organisation Cummins, at its Manston site in Thanet.

They are looking towards the possibility of providing a live strategic project that involves working collaboratively with the senior management team at Cummins.

The details are being finalised, with the possibility of this joint intervention starting in early summer. For more information, visit www.kent.ac.uk/kbs

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SALLY FLANAGAN

Flanagan joins trust team

EAST Malling Trust has appointed Sally Flanagan as its business development director.

The former Hadlow College business development manager has been brought in to help the charitable trust strengthen its ties with the business community, academia and key industry and community organisations.

Flanagan said she was looking forward to

the role. "With food security and adapting to climate change increasingly on the agenda, it is clear the trust, and the work of East Malling Research, are internationally important," she said.

"I'm delighted to be joining the team and playing my part in nurturing the already strong relations between the trust and key organisations in the land-based community."

Park workshop on employment law

THE latest employment law updates will be explained at a Kent Science Park workshop next month.

Employment experts from Maidstone-based law firm Brachers LLP will discuss recent changes to the default retirement age, flexible working and shared parental leave.

The company's Richard Thompson said: "Employment law is probably the area of law that is of the most constant concern to business owners."

"Legislation can move so quickly and it's extremely difficult to understand your legal situation regarding employees."

"An issue confusing a lot of employers at the moment surrounds the leave people are enti-

tled to take when they, or their partner, are having a child.

"Much has been made of the Government's extensions to paternity-leave entitlements and pay, and there is now legislation allowing a couple to effectively share out the time they can spend off work."

"For employers, knowing where you stand can be a minefield. Our workshops always start by looking at the latest legislation and clearly explaining the implications."

"We are then always happy to take any questions from delegates on issues that are of particular concern."

The workshop will be on Tuesday, April 26, at the science park, near Sittingbourne.



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Billions are lost to cyber crooks



BUSINESSES are being advised to protect themselves against the rising risk of cyber crime.

The warning was made by Ashford-based Bluefin Insurance Services after Cabinet Office research found data breaches and malicious attacks were costing UK businesses £21 billion a year.

The company's head of customer proposition, Peter Castle, said: "Cyber crime is an increasingly serious problem, but many traditional insurance policies could leave businesses vulnerable in the event of an attack."

The Government report revealed the most common forms of cyber crime were theft of intellectual property, industrial espionage, extortion and theft of customer data. It is thought the true cost of cyber crime to UK businesses could be much higher as many incidents are not reported publicly.

Further research by the Ponemon Institute indicates a 7 per cent rise in the cost of data breaches compared with the same period last year. The institute found 77 per cent of UK businesses had suffered at least one data breach over the

past year at a cost of £112 per record lost.

Despite a rise in the number of high-profile data breaches, with insurance giant Zurich and the Rural Payments Agency sanctioned for losing sensitive data, Castle said many many insurance policies had failed to keep pace with the growth of virtual crime.

"Even the smallest business can accumulate critical information and sensitive customer details on its computer files and the loss of these assets could have a catastrophic effect on the business and its customers," he said.

"Historically, most policies cover against physical loss or damage and, as a result, won't protect against electronic risk exposure as data is virtual and intangible.

"However, in the past year or so, a small number of insurance companies have responded by developing policies that cover additional areas such as breach of network security, privacy liability, reputational harm and cyber extortion."

CYBER CRIME

Protect your business

To help safeguard businesses from the threat of cyber crime, Bluefin offers the following advice:

- Examine current insurance policies and consider whether specialist cover is required.
- Review IT systems and ensure all firewall protection and anti-virus software is updated regularly.
- Conduct a cyber-crime risk assessment to identify any weak points in security.
- Provide refresher training to employees highlighting ways to improve data security.
- The Cabinet Office report identifies businesses in IP intensive industries such as pharmaceuticals and manufacturing as being most at risk of cyber crime.

Businesses in these fields should consider taking out extra protection to guard against the consequences of a loss of data.



GOING UNDERGROUND: The Bunker Secure Hosting at Ash

The Bunker mentality takes on golden glow

THE Bunker secure data centre has shown it values service as much as IT know-how after becoming a gold member of the Service Desk Institute (SDI).

The Bunker Secure Hosting Ltd houses computer systems for clients such as the Government, financial-services organisations and technology firms from a military-grade nuclear bunker at Ash, near Sandwich.

A company official said being a member of the SDI gave The Bunker access to the best industry knowledge and expert advice.

Service manager Nicola Davies said: "A modern data centre requires more than technicians to keep servers running. We provide

fully-outsourced IT solutions, including first-line customer support for applications, proactive problem prevention and comprehensive customer support.

"The service team are an integral part of The Bunker's data centre as a service solution.

"I am delighted The Bunker's service desk is now a gold member of SDI and we will continue to ensure our team remains ahead on innovation."

The Bunker is protected by a 3.5-metre perimeter fence, 3m-thick walls, solid-steel doors, guard dogs, CCTV, military electromagnetic pulse protection, security guards and sophisticated access controls.



DATA PROTECTION: The Bunker's clients include the Government

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Sport



Match report and reaction from Tuesday night's vital Conference South clash between Dover Athletic and Havant & Waterlooville at Crabble



Find out whether Folkestone Invicta were able to ease their relegation fears with a win at Tooting & Mitcham last night



All the rugby action involving Dover, Folkestone and Deal & Betteshanger



Find out whether Hythe Town were able to extend their lead at the top of the Kent League with victory at Corinthian on Tuesday night



Catherine Spencer decided to call time on her rugby career with England – find out why she felt now was the right time

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